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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

God, our healer, as we draw awareness this month to defeating the foe that is breast cancer, we lay before You the friends and loved ones who, this day, are coming to terms with a recent diagnosis, who are in the throes of treatment, or who, by Your grace, stand as survivors of this insidious disease.

Holy God, You know their names. You know that neither young nor old, women nor men have been spared the terror of this threat. You are keenly aware of their journey through the shock and denial, the loss and frustrations they have faced along the way.

Remind them that neither are any denied Your abiding presence. Come alongside each one and give them courage to face this day. Grant them strength when they are sapped of their energy. Bestow upon them a sense of peace when tempers rage against the betrayal of their bodies. And give them hope for another day to enjoy the loved ones who toil alongside them in this battle to live.

O, great physician, we pray especially on behalf of those who cannot pray for themselves. Heal their souls that in all things they will find their wholeness in Your love.

O, Lord, hear our prayers, for healing, for cures, and in Your mercy, for those we have lost.

In the strength of Your name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Jour-

nal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. LAWRENCE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF BISHOP PHILLIP BROOKS

(Mrs. LAWRENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Bishop Phillip Brooks, who passed away at 88 years old, as the First Assistant Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ.

After moving to Michigan in 1949, Bishop Brooks became a leader in the faith community for Detroit. He was also the first African-American pastor to broadcast on television in Detroit.

Bishop Brooks also stressed and taught the importance of relationships and service within the community.

The bishop became the supporter of several Detroit institutions, including the Charles Wright Museum of African American History, and he raised money and resources to aid displaced New York workers after 9/11 and supported relief efforts for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

His 36 years on the executive board of the Church of God in Christ was the

longest of any bishop. Detroit and the faith community will always remember Bishop Brooks for his devoted service.

I take personal privilege to honor his spiritual leadership for me and for my family, the Cranford family.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS TAYLOR PATTERSON BLAZES A TRAIL FOR IOWA WOMEN

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a veteran to recognize an amazing achievement of a fellow servicewoman in Iowa.

Last month, Private First Class Taylor Patterson, a student at Iowa State University, became the first female enlisted infantry soldier in the Iowa National Guard after being the first Iowa woman to complete the rigorous 22-week training program at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Five years ago, the United States Army began to allow women to serve in combat positions given that they can pass the same base physical requirement for all combat personnel. Through determination and the support of her family and team at Fort Benning, Private First Class Patterson blazed a trail for generations of Iowa women.

For over 183 years, the Iowa National Guard has been an excellent example of service above self by always answering their call to duty. Whether it is assisting communities in disaster relief efforts, like we saw with last year's derecho in Iowa, or being deployed to Afghanistan this year to aid in the refugee crisis, Iowa's National Guard has always gone above and beyond in their service to our State and our country.

Congratulations to Private First Class Patterson for her service and for being a trailblazer for women everywhere.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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H5935

STRIKING WORKERS PUT THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the United Autoworkers on strike at John Deere and to express my heartfelt condolences for a devastating loss.

We woke up to tragic news this morning that a worker in Milan, Illinois, was crossing the street by the picket line and was struck and killed.

This is heartbreaking. He was just described to me as a quiet and kind person, the type of guy who would make you laugh.

My prayers are with his family and with all of the striking UAW workers today.

These workers have put their lives on the line in more ways than one. At the height of the pandemic, Deere employees in the district that I serve were deemed essential, even making thousands of anti-COVID face shields that Deere donated to help keep others safe. They were working 10- and 12-hour shifts.

John Deere is an iconic, homegrown American company, part of the fabric of the community where I live. When a business is as successful as Deere & Company, they need to make sure that their workers are rewarded for that, they are key to that success. These workers have earned a fair deal.

I have faith in John Deere, and I stand with our UAW workers.

GAIN OF DYSFUNCTION IN WASHINGTON

(Mr. LONG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, you hear a lot today about the gain of dysfunction research.

Gain of dysfunction research is going on right here in Washington, D.C., and I say it is time we put a stop to it. This gain of dysfunction research leads us to all kinds of problems in our country that we weren't facing before January 3 of this year and most definitely before January 20 of this year.

Our friends across the aisle have proposed \$5.5 trillion in new spending, \$2.1 trillion in new tax increases, the highest level of spending and highest level of tax increases in history.

Now, they can say no one under \$400,000 has to pay these new taxes, but through the dysfunction of Congress and the White House, this gain of dysfunction research must stop.

People under \$400,000 are paying 42.1 percent more for gas. It is kind of a status symbol today to be able to fill your tank up with gas.

Gas utilities are up 20.6 percent. I only wish in my hometown that is all we were going to face this winter. Propane, kerosene, firewood are up 27 percent.

The energy crisis, national average for gas up to \$3.38.

And not to mention the dysfunction going on at our border, the worst border crisis in 30 years, 192,000 in apprehensions.

I say it is time to end the state of dysfunction in Washington, D.C. research.

HONORING THE HEROISM OF ARISTIDES DE SOUSA MENDES

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Aristides de Sousa Mendes, a Portuguese diplomat and hero who singlehandedly saved tens of thousands of lives of people fleeing the Nazi persecution in 1940.

On October 19, 2021, Sousa Mendes was laid to rest in the National Pantheon in Lisbon, Portugal.

He was proudly Portuguese and had a deep love of country, family, and the arts. He served as the Portuguese consulate general in Bordeaux, France, in 1940.

When Hitler launched his invasion of France on May 10, 1940, millions of people suddenly found themselves in imminent danger from Nazi attack.

Thousands sought visas in the consulate in Bordeaux trying to escape. In June of 1940, Sousa Mendes issued an estimated 30,000 visas, including to roughly 10,000 Jews fleeing for their lives with their families, despite the Salazar regime having forbidden their diplomats in Portugal from issuing such visas to refugees.

The Israeli historian Yehuda Bauer cited Sousa Mendes' actions as perhaps the largest rescue action by a single individual during the Holocaust.

As a punishment for disobeying the mandates of his country's Salazar regime, Sousa Mendes was stripped of his job, denied a pension, and pushed into poverty. His home was repossessed, and he suffered two strokes before passing away in 1954.

"I may have erred," he wrote, "but if so, I did it unintentionally, having followed the voice of my conscience, which . . . never failed to guide me in the fulfillment of my duties, in full awareness of my responsibilities."

After years without recognition for his heroism, I commend the decision to lay Sousa Mendes to rest in the National Pantheon, celebrating his courage.

Please join me in honoring Aristides de Sousa Mendes.

STOP THE RECKLESS SPENDING SPREE

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, the cost of living keeps getting more expensive, and we are reminded of that

every time we fill up our cars and trucks. Gasoline prices, at a 7-year high, are putting a strain on family budgets.

When asked about surging gas prices, President Biden said, "I don't have a near-term solution." Well, Republicans do, with bills languishing in committee. His lack of solutions is of little comfort to struggling families.

Meanwhile, the President's \$5 trillion tax-and-spending plan advances extreme policies that will increase consumer costs and undermine American energy. That includes imposing a new tax on home heating bills, as well as an arbitrary drilling moratorium on Federal lands.

Banning domestic energy production will only increase reliance on foreign energy sources, and motorists everywhere will pay with higher prices at the pump.

Let's stop this reckless spending spree and attack on American energy before it is too late.

DEMOCRATS MAKING TRANSFORMATIVE INVESTMENTS

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, while in my district a few weeks ago, I spoke with my constituents about the Democratic Party's plan to build our country back better after the pandemic.

The people of the Virgin Islands agree with me that we have reached an inflection point. This is our moment to prove to the American people that their government works for the people, not just those at the top.

As President Biden always said, we need to reward work in this country, not just wealth. Build Back Better means creating millions of jobs while tackling the climate crisis and ensuring that America will not only compete but lead the way to the clean energy future. Meanwhile, its transformative investments in women and families—including childcare, paid leave, home-based care, and universal pre-K—will unlock the full economic potential of parents in the workforce. It also includes historic investment in workforce training, to connect workers to jobs.

Democrats have already made sure 40 million American families received a tax cut through the Biden child tax credit, which is helping cut child poverty in half. Build Back Better doubles down on those investments, resulting in one of the largest middle-class tax cuts ever. This is our opportunity to build back better.

□ 1215

INFLATION IS ONGOING

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, sadly the Biden inflation is ongoing, and families are struggling to survive as jobs are being destroyed.

Last month I shared the Labor Department report the Consumer Price Index for August was rising at the fastest pace in 13 years. This continued in September, and here are a few price increase examples: gasoline up 42.1 percent; gas utilities up 20.6 percent; bacon up 19.3 percent; eggs up 12.6 percent; children's shoes up 11.9 percent; fresh fish and seafood up 10.7 percent.

Biden tax-and-spend policies cause inflation and destroy jobs. Clearly, the Democrat elite think they are smarter than anyone with the Democrat voters they see as ignorant making a claim that \$3.5 trillion will have zero costs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism continues, moving from Afghanistan to America.

AN URGENT NEED FOR ACTION IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY

(Mr. VALADAO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, in the midst of a statewide drought emergency, the Central Valley experienced considerable rainstorms this week.

While communities across my district are incredibly grateful for this rainfall, we know this relief will be short lived.

Farmers are desperate for water to grow their crops. Rural towns continue to face water shortages.

We are grateful for this rain. We need this rain. But we need this administration to understand the dire nature of our situation and take appropriate measures to capture our most precious resource.

I have asked time and time again for support from the House majority to address this issue.

I have expressed the urgent need for action to prepare for exactly the opportunity that has been pointlessly wasted this week.

The families in my district cannot continue to wait. I ask my colleagues yet again to join my efforts to improve water infrastructure and water management in California.

NUCLEAR FAMILIES SHOULD NOT BE PUNISHED

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk one more time about the reconciliation bill that may be before us very soon.

We began this session with a great electoral victory for Black Lives Matter, who on their website said we disrupt the western prescribed nuclear family structure.

First of all, I think that is just insulting because we have nuclear families all over the world. But in any event, I look at the reconciliation bill that is now before us, and it looks to me like a payoff to people who want to discriminate against the nuclear family.

Whether you look at the earned income tax credit, all the additional money in low-income housing, or the increase in Pell grants, they are all additional money that will be disproportionately very difficult for nuclear families to access.

I strongly reject voting for this bill because in the future we must no longer punish people who decide to live in nuclear families.

PRESIDENT BIDEN MUST ACT TO AVERT AN IMPENDING ENERGY CRISIS

(Mr. ROSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, this fall along with the cooler temperatures that autumn always brings, Tennesseans and Americans all across the country will be subjected to record-breaking prices to heat our homes.

Under the Biden administration, costs for natural gas, the most common resource for heating our homes, has skyrocketed.

With inflation at a 30-year high, families are already stretched thin as they pay more at the grocery store and at the gas pump, but it doesn't stop there.

Families are now expected to pay more in energy costs to heat their homes; as much as 54 percent for some households for the fall and winter months.

Rather than confronting this burgeoning energy crisis before it is too late, President Biden and Democrats are proposing disastrous energy policies that are bad for the economy, bad for the national security, and bad for Americans.

Included in their more than \$5 trillion social spending agenda is a natural gas tax and bans on domestic energy and mineral production, which will cause us to obtain these vital resources from OPEC, Russia, and even China.

As Democrats continued to push their tax-and-spend agenda, it is middle- and low-income families who will be hit the hardest by far left energy policies.

President Biden must act now to avert this impending energy crisis.

HONORING JARED KEYWORTH

(Mr. SCALISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero. Jared Keyworth from Mandeville, Louisiana, served as a senior inspector with the United States Marshals Serv-

ice and tragically lost his life in the line of duty earlier this month.

Senior Inspector Keyworth began his service with the Marshals Service in 2010 and took on assignments in Denver, Miami, and New Orleans. Most recently, he was selected to serve in the marshals' technical operations group in Baton Rouge.

Prior to Jared's service with the marshals, he served in the United States Army's Old Guard. During President Reagan's funeral, Jared escorted the riderless horse, the symbol of a fallen leader who will never ride again.

On September 28 of 2021, Jared was critically wounded while in pursuit of a violent felony offender. He passed away on October 1.

Jared will forever be in our hearts and minds, and we are eternally grateful for his service to our great country.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 27, 2021.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on October 27, 2021, at 9:43 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 1872.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1899.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

CONTINUED STATE FLEXIBILITY TO ASSIST OLDER FOSTER YOUTH

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5661) to extend flexible use of John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program funding to address pandemic-related challenges for older foster youth.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5661

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Continued State Flexibility To Assist Older Foster Youth Act”.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF PANDEMIC PROVISIONS AFFECTING OLDER FOSTER YOUTH.

(a) **EXTENSION OF CHAFEE PROGRAM FLEXIBILITY.**—Section 3 of division X of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (42 U.S.C. 677 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking “and 2021” and inserting “through 2022”; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking “During the COVID-19 public health emergency period.”;

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking “The” and inserting “Through December 31, 2021, the”;

(C) in paragraph (2), by striking “A” and inserting “Through fiscal year 2022, a”;

(D) in paragraph (3), by striking “Notwithstanding” and inserting “Through fiscal year 2022, notwithstanding”; and

(E) in paragraph (4), by inserting after the paragraph heading the following: “Through fiscal year 2022.”.

(b) **EXTENSION OF STATE FUNDING FLEXIBILITY RELATED TO YOUTH AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE.**—Section 4 of such division (42 U.S.C. 671 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “2021” and inserting “2022”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) **ADDITIONAL CHAFEE FUNDING FLEXIBILITIES.**—Notwithstanding paragraph (2) of this subsection, a State to which additional funds are made available as a result of section 3(a) of this division may use the funds to meet any costs referred to in paragraph (1) of this subsection incurred on or before September 30, 2022, with respect to children who—

“(A) have attained 18 years of age;

“(B) are in foster care, or re-enter care; and

“(C) are not eligible for foster care maintenance payments under section 472 of the Social Security Act.”; and

(2) in subsection (e), by striking “2021” and inserting “2022”.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. WALORSKI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The COVID-19 pandemic hit all of our communities hard, but for vulnerable youth in foster care, it was terrifying, especially for those youth approaching the age of independence at which they lose access to the supports that foster care provides.

When my good friend Congresswoman JACKIE WALORSKI and I teamed up last year to provide States with flexibility and funding to help these youth, we hoped and expected that the pandemic

would be over by now and that these youth would be back on track, getting an education, starting jobs, finding a place to live, and establishing independent lives.

Unfortunately, the delta variant hit hard, creating a new wave of challenges for these youth. To the current and former foster youth who reached out to us and our colleagues to share their stories, we hear you, and we are committed to continuing to respect the lessons of your lived experience in foster care.

The legislation we are considering today, the Continued State Flexibility To Assist Older Foster Youth Act will restore and continue key program flexibilities that allow States to provide greater stability and certainty to current and former youth via the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program.

The bill will give States the flexibility to continue providing the specific supports that older foster youth need to return to college, training programs, and work. It will extend flexibilities to secure housing, to gain independence through driving programs, and to allow youth who would otherwise age out of eligibility for services a little more support to weather the pandemic.

I firmly believe in the strong bipartisan partnership that Representative WALORSKI and I have built over the years to help vulnerable youth and families to improve our child welfare system.

We have a lot to do to help foster youth through this pandemic, and this legislation to allow States to make better use of the funding we provided is the first step.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise today in support of H.R. 5661, the Continued State Flexibility To Assist Older Foster Youth Act.

America’s most vulnerable foster youth face unique challenges even in normal times, and the COVID-19 pandemic created even more obstacles to overcome.

Nearly 20,000 youth age out of foster care every year. While the COVID pandemic has presented difficulties for all Americans, foster youth and former foster youth are particularly vulnerable, given that they are most likely to be without reliable adults and other kinds of supports in their lives.

The Continued State Flexibility To Assist Older Foster Youth Act would allow States to keep in place important flexibilities in the Chafee child welfare program so they can continue to support vulnerable foster youth in Indiana and across the country.

I am grateful to Chairman DAVIS for his continued partnership in building on our past reforms to help families thrive and this committee’s tradition of bipartisan action to protect young people in our foster care system.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU).

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5661, the Continued State Flexibility To Assist Older Foster Youth Act.

We have heard directly from foster youth that aging out of the system comes with unique challenges, and that they are often left without supportive services or families to help them if they fall on hard times. This has been especially difficult throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, as older and former foster youth have experienced homelessness, been laid off from work, endured food insecurity, and navigated negative impacts on their mental health.

But States like California have devised ways to help, like letting foster youth who turn 21 continue receiving support and assistance through the child welfare agency. Additionally, at the end of last year, Congress provided States with additional funds in the year-end omnibus specifically to help this population, many of whom were not eligible for Federal stimulus payments. And in California, we are working to get this funding directly to impacted youth via direct cash payments. Unfortunately, the pandemic has made it harder to get these funds directly into the hands of the young people who need them, causing needless delays and hardship.

That is why I am happy to support H.R. 5661 to extend support to our young adults and ensure that they have all of the tools they need to make it through this unprecedented time. By extending the programmatic flexibilities in the Chafee program, which helps current and former foster youth prepare for independent adult living, we are keeping young people safe and housed and also ensuring access to supportive services for those youth affected by the COVID-19 crisis.

I have had the privilege to meet with foster youth from across the country throughout the years, and I have been impressed with their resilience and ability to advocate for themselves. But they don’t have to do it alone. I am proud to support this bill to help foster youth shape a better future for themselves and our whole country.

□ 1230

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON).

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleagues from Indiana and Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5661, the Continued State Flexibility To Assist Older Foster Youth Act.

We can all agree that our children and youth have suffered tremendously during this pandemic. Foster youth

that aged out of the system are hurting and feel forgotten. We can come together to support these youth through continuing States' flexibility with the Chafee funds to assist older foster youth.

The act will allow the emergency Chafee funds flexibilities that we implemented during the pandemic to continue through fiscal year 2022. It will give youth the option to reenter foster care that aged out during the pandemic, remove the living expenses cap, and expand the educational training funds to assist them.

We hear more and more from youth that need our help. As a foster-to-adopt parent, I know that our foster youth need our help, and we need to make sure that we hold to our responsibility to fully support them during this crisis. Young adults who have aged out of foster care are the number one risk for homelessness in that age group.

Mr. Speaker, we have the opportunity here to make a difference.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman so very much for yielding to me. I thank him and Ranking Member WALORSKI for bringing this bill forward.

Mr. Speaker, our foster youth are, of course, some of our Nation's most vulnerable. But do you know what? They are also our most resilient. But even the most resilient needs support. That is what this bill is all about, ensuring that those who would otherwise age out of foster care at age 18, who chose it or need it, can continue to get services—housing, workforce development, driving skills—through this pandemic.

For thousands of foster youth each year, their time in foster care, simply because they turn 18—or 21 in some States—can be a very, very unsettling moment for them.

As a result, with little or no family support, they suddenly find themselves grown, independent. But the reality is that the battle is only beginning in these youths' lives. Having already suffered trauma, including family separation, they find themselves without any type of safety net during this particularly trying time in any person's life. And to be sure, these are inspiring young people, but again, they need support to help ensure brighter futures.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about one of these youth who I had the pleasure to get to know. His story is full of struggles and victories, but they are not the exception. This was Mr. "DJay" Joi.

I first met DJay when he shadowed me during Foster Youth Day a few years ago. He had such a great heart, great personality, extremely intelligent, that he quickly became a part of my own personal family.

DJay's drive and resilience helped him create a bright future for himself. He knew firsthand the difficulties facing those aging out of the foster care

system, challenges that he shared with me.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, this bill is a good step. But let's recognize and address the supports we need to provide foster youth. We need to require all States to raise the maximum age to 21 for those who choose to keep receiving foster care supportive services. We need to think about permanently removing the barriers or the cap on the use of Chafee funds for housing.

KAREN BASS and I have a bill that would immediately allow former foster youth to keep Medicaid coverage through age 26. Healthcare is a critical need.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman and the ranking member, and I urge all Members to support this great initiative.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE).

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5661, the Continued State Flexibility To Assist Older Foster Youth Act.

As co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth, this issue is incredibly important to me. In my home State of Michigan, there are approximately 13,000 children in foster care. Unfortunately, they have been at particular risk during this COVID-19 pandemic.

This legislation would take meaningful action to ensure that States have the opportunity to assist children in foster care by extending pandemic-related provisions passed under the Consolidated Appropriations Act for an additional year.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that these flexibilities will help States, like my own Michigan, provide foster children with the assistance they need.

We must do everything in our power to assist and support at-risk youth. It is necessary that we follow through on this commitment to them.

Mr. Speaker, I often remind people: Foster children are a ward of the State and are our responsibility.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN).

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Continued State Flexibility To Assist Older Foster Youth Act.

Last month, I hosted a townhall with the National Foster Youth Institute for current and former foster youth across the country. Their stories of

hardship broke my heart. I was not surprised, though, because these young people are among the most vulnerable in our society, often lacking the same social safety net that you or I could rely on in a crisis.

Surveys throughout the pandemic have shown foster youth face elevated financial, housing, and food insecurity; decreased educational and workforce participation; and increased isolation. This bill before us today extends crucial flexibilities for the Chafee Foster Care Program that we put in place last December, allowing States to better meet the needs of current and former foster youth.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill and help young people access this much-needed assistance.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers.

I will simply say that I am very pleased that we are considering this important legislation that would provide additional help to foster children and give States the flexibility that they need to provide all the assistance during this pandemic that foster children can make use of.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my ranking member tremendously for the bipartisanship we have been able to effect, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, in December, we worked together to take action to help foster youth through the pandemic so they could build a stronger, more stable future. That bill, called the Supporting Foster Youth Through the Pandemic Act, provided much-needed additional support for foster youth and families, at-risk pregnant women and mothers, and kinship caregivers, including grandparents.

Mr. Speaker, the bill included \$400 million in funding to assist States in supporting foster youth transitioning to adulthood during the pandemic. That relief has provided a lifeline for thousands of youth to get back to school, back into jobs, and on the path of self-sufficiency.

As COVID-19 continues to spur instability, young people with experience in foster care still face significant challenges to meet their basic needs and to access critical funds and services.

According to the Department of Health and Human Services, 75 percent of these funds remain unobligated by States as of September 30, 2021, and States have another year to spend. In recognition of the needs of foster youth, this bill would extend those key programmatic flexibilities for another year.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support these vulnerable foster youth by voting for H.R. 5661, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5661.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REAL JUSTICE FOR OUR VETERANS ACT OF 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4035) to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to prioritize veterans court treatment programs that ensure equal access for racial and ethnic minorities and women, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4035

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Real Justice for Our Veterans Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. EQUAL ACCESS TO VETERANS COURT TREATMENT PROGRAMS FOR RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITIES AND WOMEN.

Section 2991(i)(2) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10651(i)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(C) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this subparagraph, the Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report on the effectiveness of veterans treatment court programs. In preparing such a report, the Attorney General shall conduct a national multi-site evaluation of such programs, including an assessment of—

"(i) the population served by such programs;
"(ii) whether such programs use evidence-based treatments for substance use and mental health, including medication for addiction treatment;

"(iii) recidivism rates of participants in such programs;

"(iv) program completion rates; and

"(v) whether racial and ethnic minorities and women have equal access to such programs and an equal opportunity to complete such programs, including by collecting and analyzing data related to admission in such programs and completion of such programs, to ensure there are not disparities related to race, ethnicity, or sex."

SEC. 3. VETERANS PILOT PROGRAM ON PROM- ISING RETENTION MODELS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Attorney General, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, shall carry out a pilot program to make grants to eligible units of local government to improve retention in veterans treatment court programs (as such term is defined in section 2991 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10651)) and drug court programs.

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—In order to be eligible for a grant under subsection (a), a unit of local government shall operate a veterans treatment court program or a drug court.

(c) APPLICATION.—A unit of local government seeking a grant through the pilot program under subsection (a) shall submit to the Attorney General an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the At-

torney General may reasonably require, including—

(1) a description of the therapeutic or treatment modality that the unit of local government plans to implement and data to support the use of the therapeutic or treatment modality, including information showing how the therapeutic or treatment modality will promote retention in and completion of veterans treatment court programs and drug court programs; and

(2) detailed plans on how the applicant would test the efficacy of the therapeutic or treatment modality.

(d) REPORTING METRICS.—Not later than 180 days after receiving a grant under subsection (a), a unit of local government shall submit to the Attorney General a report, which includes demographic information of participants in the veterans treatment court program, and completion rates of such participants. The Attorney General shall develop guidelines for the report required under this subsection.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2027 to carry out this section.

SEC. 4. ADMISSION OF VETERANS TO DRUG COURTS.

In the case of a jurisdiction that does not operate a veterans treatment court program (as such term is defined in section 2991 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10651)), but that does operate a drug court under part EE of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10611 et seq.), a veteran who would be eligible to participate in a veterans treatment court program may participate in the drug court, including a veteran who is a violent offender (as such term is defined in section 2953(a) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10613(a))).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BENTZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am the proud sponsor and proud of H.R. 4035. The Real Justice for Our Veterans Act is before the House for consideration, and I ask all my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill today.

I authored the Real Justice for Our Veterans Act to help our Nation's justice-involved veterans to improve the delivery of services in veterans and drug courts. The bill before the House today has three discrete aims.

First, the bill would expand data collection regarding the effectiveness of veterans courts.

Second, it authorizes a pilot program that would investigate and promote promising retention models in veterans and drug courts.

Lastly, and perhaps most critically, it would open up drug treatment courts to veterans in areas where there may not be a veterans court, so very important for those who have interacted with our committee and have made note of the fact that there are many jurisdictions in the United States where there are veterans and no veterans court.

Each of these critical changes would promote higher participation and higher rehabilitation of veterans who have mental health and substance abuse issues.

The need for this legislation is painfully clear. Generations of veterans have served abroad in recent decades, and we must redouble our efforts to support veterans and expand the services they need to thrive.

The rapid expansion of veterans treatment courts speaks not only to the need for such courts but, more importantly, to the benefit of the specialized approach to rehabilitation and treatment the courts offer.

The holistic treatment model, which includes input from the prosecutor, defense counsel, and the court, centers on the supervised comprehensive treatment provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs or community organizations.

Because each veterans court offers different management services, we need to do more to identify which treatment options are successful so that these promising models can be expanded. That is why the elements of the Real Justice for Our Veterans Act are so important.

The bill also calls for additional data on the demographics of who is referred to veterans treatment courts and asks for information on completion rates. This information will be critical to advancing our understanding of how the programs are used.

Additionally, the legislation authorizes a new pilot program that will allow DOJ to test promising retention programs that promote greater enrollment and participation by veterans through the duration of their treatment program.

□ 1245

Legislative efforts to strengthen veterans treatment courts have yielded bipartisan support in the past, and the same is true today.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD), for cosponsoring the bill and working with me in this effort.

I urge my colleagues to take a look at their congressional districts. You will probably find places of refuge for our veterans; some may be homeless. I have several facilities in my congressional district that deal with the housing of homeless veterans, or deal with services for homeless veterans, or deal with services, period, for veterans.

I can assure you that a comforting judicial system on veterans who, because of combat injuries, PTSD, and

other issues dealing with them, losing their family, being separated from the family, being miles away from their home because of combat-impacted injuries, that the judicial system is one they may come in contact with.

To be able to have courts that are responsive to their service and their record, and to be able to help move them away from the judicial system is a tribute to our commitment to the service of our men and women.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to continue this record of support for veterans treatment courts by voting for this bill today.

I am proud that H.R. 4035, the "Real Justice for Our Veterans Act" is before the House for consideration and I ask all my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill today.

I authored the Real Justice for Our Veterans Act to help our nation's justice-involved veterans and to improve the delivery of services in veterans and drug courts.

The bill before the House today has three discrete aims.

First, the bill would expand data collection regarding the effectiveness of veterans courts.

Second, it authorizes a pilot program that would investigate and promote promising retention models in veterans and drug courts.

And lastly, and perhaps most critically, it would open up drug treatment courts to veterans in areas where there may not be a veterans court.

Each of these critical changes would promote higher participation and higher rehabilitation of veterans who have mental health and substance abuse issues.

The need for this legislation is painfully clear. Generations of veterans have served abroad in recent decades and we must redouble our efforts to support veterans and expand the services they need to thrive.

The rapid expansion of veterans treatment courts speaks not only to the need for such courts but more importantly to the benefit of the specialized approach to rehabilitation and treatment the courts offer.

The wholistic treatment model, which includes input from the prosecutor, defense counsel, and the court, centers on the supervised comprehensive treatment provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs or community organizations.

Because each veterans court offers different treatment services, we need to do more to identify which treatment options are successful so that these promising models can be expanded.

That's why these elements of the "Real Justice for Our Veterans Act" are so important.

The bill also calls for additional data collection on the demographics of who is referred to veterans treatment courts and asks for information on completion rates. This information will be critical to advancing our understanding of how the programs are used.

Additionally, the legislation authorizes a new pilot program that will allow DOJ to test promising retention programs that promote greater enrollment and participation by veterans through the duration of their treatment program.

Legislative efforts to strengthen veterans treatment courts have yielded bipartisan support in the past, and the same is true today.

I thank our colleague, the gentleman from Florida, Representative JOHN RUTHERFORD, for

cosponsoring this bill and working with me in this effort.

I urge my colleagues to continue this record of support for veterans treatment courts by voting for this bill today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4035, the Real Justice for Our Veterans Act of 2021.

Unfortunately, many of our Nation's veterans suffer from substance abuse disorders, mental health conditions, and trauma. According to data from the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics, approximately 60 percent of combat veterans in our Nation's prisons have reported mental health disorders.

Veterans treatment court programs are modeled after other specialized treatment court programs, such as drug treatment courts to provide services specific to meet the unique needs of veterans. Veterans treatment courts are not only designed to benefit veterans in the criminal justice system, but taxpayers as well.

These treatment programs lower recidivism for participants who complete them, saving money that otherwise would have been spent on incarceration.

H.R. 4035 will expand data collection on these treatment programs to ensure that our veterans are getting the most effective treatment possible.

H.R. 4035 also authorizes pilot programs to make grants to improve retention rates in veterans treatment court programs. It allows veterans in jurisdictions that do not operate veterans court programs to participate in drug courts instead.

Congress must do everything in its power to protect our Nation's veterans and ensure that they get the very best treatment. This is exactly what this bill does.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

MR. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Texas has 16 minutes remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this has been a journey for me in terms of dealing with veterans who are in need of help.

Some years ago, I joined with the late and former member of the military, Chairman Murtha, to bring a satellite site to my congressional district for post-traumatic stress disorder. The center was outside of the veterans hospital but could be accessed by veterans through TRICARE.

So I have seen the needs of veterans who have experienced the impact of combat, the impact of the service, but are still committed to duty. This particular legislation responds and respects that duty. That is the duty that we owe to those who have fallen along the highway of challenges.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make sure that we have the treatment for those who have experienced substance abuse, as well as that we have the judicial system that responds to that need. It may cross the gamut of substance abuse, alcohol abuse, and of course, encounters with the criminal justice system.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman NADLER of the Judiciary Committee. And I thank members of the Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security Subcommittee because it shows that our work is expansive. It includes rehabilitation and treatment and fairness and justice. Finding ways to have people steer away from incarceration and, of course, encounters over and over again with the judicial system or the criminal justice system.

So veterans treatment court programs around the country have successfully provided support to veterans struggling with substance abuse or mental health issues. We have seen them work effectively. The need to expand veterans treatment court services is real and immediate.

We look forward to this bill moving in the other body and the President of the United States signing it, saying to veterans, we want to be helpful to you in your time of celebration of who you are as a veteran, but also in your time of need.

Based on the most recent data, the Bureau of Justice Statistics estimates that approximately 181,500 veterans are incarcerated in jail as well as State and Federal prisons. Mr. Speaker, that is too many who have been lost to the abusing of drugs, alcohol, and substance abuse.

H.R. 4035 would help rehabilitate justice-involved veterans and ultimately make for a safer community and give them a better quality of life; and might I say, give their families a better quality of life.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of this important bill.

Mr. Speaker, veterans treatment court programs around the country have successfully provided support to veterans struggling with substance abuse or mental health issues.

The need to expand veterans treatment court services is real and immediate.

Based on the most recent data, the Bureau of Justice Statistics estimates that approximately 181,500 veterans are incarcerated in jails as well as state and federal prisons.

H.R. 4035 would help rehabilitate justice-involved veterans and ultimately make for safer communities.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of this important bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4035, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JAIME ZAPATA AND VICTOR AVILA FEDERAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES PROTECTION ACT

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 921) to amend title 18, United States Code, to further protect officers and employees of the United States, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 921

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Jaime Zapata and Victor Avila Federal Officers and Employees Protection Act”.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) since the founding of the Nation, officers and employees of the United States Government have dutifully and faithfully served the United States overseas, including in situations that place them at serious risk of death or bodily harm, in order to preserve, protect, and defend the interests of the United States;

(2) securing the safety of such officers and employees while serving overseas is of paramount importance and is also in furtherance of preserving, protecting, and defending the interests of the United States;

(3) Federal courts, including the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, have correctly interpreted section 1114 of title 18, United States Code, to apply extraterritorially to protect officers and employees of the United States while the officers and employees are serving abroad;

(4) in a case involving a violent attack against Federal law enforcement officers Jaime Zapata and Victor Avila, a panel of a Federal court of appeals held that section 1114 of title 18, United States Code, does not apply extraterritorially, creating a split among the United States circuit courts of appeals;

(5) in light of the opinion described in paragraph (4), it has become necessary for Congress to clarify the original intent that section 1114 of title 18, United States Code, applies extraterritorially; and

(6) it is further appropriate to clarify the original intent that sections 111 and 115 of title 18, United States Code, apply extraterritorially as well.

SEC. 3. PROTECTION OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE UNITED STATES.

Part I of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 111, by adding at the end the following:

“(c) EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION.—There is extraterritorial jurisdiction over the conduct prohibited by this section.”;

(2) in section 115, by adding at the end the following:

“(e) There is extraterritorial jurisdiction over the conduct prohibited by this section.”; and

(3) in section 1114—

(A) by inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—” before “Whoever”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION.—There is extraterritorial jurisdiction over the conduct prohibited by this section.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BENTZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 921, the Jaime Zapata and Victor Avila Federal Officers and Employees Protection Act. This Senate-passed bill would correct a manifest wrong by making clear that the law prohibiting the killing of Federal employees extends beyond American borders.

Our Justice Department must have the ability to ensure that anyone who kills or attempts to kill individuals serving our country outside the United States are brought to justice under current law.

The tragic circumstance that makes this bill necessary bears repeating. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Special Agents Jaime Zapata and Victor Avila were assigned abroad to protect American interests. In early 2011, while traveling in a convoy near San Luis Potosi, Mexico, the American agents were attacked by agents of the Los Zetas drug cartel.

In the firefight, both Agents Zapata and Avila were shot. Tragically, Agent Zapata died from his wounds. A thorough investigation brought the perpetrators of this heinous act to the United States to stand to account for the acts, and they were convicted. Yet, justice remained unfulfilled.

In January 2020, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals vacated the murder conviction of two Los Zetas cartel members responsible for the murder of Agent Zapata and attempted murder of Agent Avila.

In doing so, the Court of Appeals found that the law we are amending today did not contain an adequate expression that it was intended to apply to crimes committed outside the United States.

Today, we correct this errant and apparently unfair judicial interpretation.

This bill does not extend criminal laws or penalties, nor does it create a new crime, it merely clarifies Congress' original intent.

Because of this bill, the United States Government may prosecute anyone who killed or attempted to kill a Federal officer or employee, whether they be agents or diplomats, while they were performing their official duties outside of the United States. The rule of law will prevail.

Interestingly enough, since the killings in that tragic incident, we have seen a number of attacks against many of our outstanding Federal employees, diplomats, and others overseas. That is all this bill would do, but it is an important thing to do.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my fellow Texans, Mr. CUELLAR and Mr. MCCAUL, for leading the House companion to this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation out of basic and endearing justice for all, and for the families of these men.

I rise in support of S. 921, the “Jaime Zapata and Victor Avila Federal Officers and Employees Protection Act.” This Senate-passed bill would correct a manifest wrong by making clear that the law prohibiting the killing of federal employees extends beyond American borders.

Our Justice Department must have the ability to ensure that anyone who kills or attempts to kill individuals serving our country outside the United States are brought to justice under current law.

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Because of this bill, the United States government may prosecute anyone who killed or attempted to kill a federal officer or employee, whether they be agents or diplomats, while they were performing their official duties outside of the United States. The rule of law will prevail.

That is all this bill would do but it is an important thing to do.

I thank my fellow Texas Representatives HENRY CUELLAR and MICHAEL MCCAUL for leading the House companion to this bill. And I urge my colleagues to support this legislation today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 921, the Jamie Zapata and Victor Avila Federal Officers and Employees Protection Act.

In 2011, members of the Los Zetas drug cartel gunned down ICE Agents Jaime Zapata and Victor Avila in an attempted carjacking. Agent Zapata was killed.

The perpetrators of this terrible crime were members of the Los Zetas hit squad on a mission that day to shoot and steal vehicles for cartel operations.

The murder and attempted carjacking occurred in Mexico. So the perpetrators were extradited to the United States to face trial for the murder and attempted murder of the American agents.

In 2017, the cartel members were convicted under section 1114 of title 18 of the United States Code, which prohibits the killing of an officer of the United States. They were sentenced to life in prison.

On appeal, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that because the crimes occurred on foreign soil, section 1114 did not apply.

In light of this ruling, Federal law enforcement officers and civil servants stationed overseas are made more vulnerable to attack. The decision created a circuit split and opened a loophole in Federal law reversing centuries of precedent that the law was intended to apply extraterritorially.

The bill simply codifies centuries of precedent and legal understanding by clarifying the extraterritorial application of three Federal statutes to protect our Federal law enforcement officers and other Federal officials. The bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent in May.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR), the original sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Representative JACKSON Lee for her leadership in this effort to make sure that we protect not only other diplomats, but our agents that work overseas. I also want to thank Mr. MICHAEL MCCAUL, one of my co-leads on this, Mr. BILL PASCRELL, Mr. FILEMON VELA, and other Members, all bipartisan, that support this.

On the Senate side, the lead sponsors were Senator JOHN CORNYN and also Senator CHRIS COONS, and a whole bunch of other folks. I certainly want to say thank you so much.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is important because this is a bipartisan

bill, and it ensures that individuals who harm or attempt to harm U.S. Federal officers or employees serving abroad can be brought to justice and prosecuted in the United States.

Furthermore, this bill will improve the safety and the security of not only the agents but any diplomat or any Federal employee that works outside the U.S. or overseas by ensuring that crimes that are committed against Americans serving abroad can be prosecuted by United States courts.

□ 1300

As the chairwoman mentioned a few minutes ago, it was very unfortunate what happened, and it is a change on the—we want to make sure that the intent of the law that has been there will be followed, and that basically just means that that section 1114 of the United States Code would say that it also covers foreign jurisdiction. So, therefore, we ask that we support this legislation because as it was mentioned, on February 15, 2011, ICE Special Agent Jaime Zapata and also his colleague, Victor Avila, were ambushed by members of the Mexican drug cartels in San Luis Potosi, Mexico.

Unfortunately, as it has been mentioned, Special Agent Zapata died because of his injuries. ICE Special Agent Jaime Zapata's murderer cannot be brought to justice because of that loophole in the current law, and this bipartisan legislation will close that loophole and ensure that the safety of all Federal employees serving our Nation abroad will be protected.

There must be severe consequences brought to bear against any individual who harms any of the Federal employees who are serving abroad. We need to know that the heroism of Special Agent Zapata and also Special Agent Avila, by holding those people who committed violence, are held accountable.

Furthermore, this issue and this bill is also important to me because Special Agent Zapata was assigned to the Homeland Security Investigations Office located in my hometown, Laredo, Texas, while he served on the Human Smuggling and Trafficking Unit as well as the Border Enforcement Security Task Force known as BEST.

So, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER).

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, this bill is about accountability. It is about leaving no American behind. The safety of our Nation depends on our heroes who are willing to raise their hands and put their own lives on the line regardless of if they are at home or abroad.

Tragically, a current loophole in Federal law has allowed the killers of Jaime Zapata, a Texan and American hero, to escape the murder convictions and sentences that they were found guilty for, and justice must be served.

In 2011, as you heard the details already, Mr. Speaker, let's reiterate the two ICE agents, Jaime Zapata as well as Victor Avila, were deployed to Mexico to curb human and drug trafficking at our southern border. The two were ambushed and gunned down by members of a Mexican drug cartel who opened fire on them along Highway 57. Both agents were struck, and Jaime Zapata tragically died from his injuries.

Weeks after the ambush, seven of these killers were extradited to the United States, and two were found guilty of murder. But last year, a Federal appeals court dismissed the murder convictions on the basis that the district court did not have jurisdiction over the crimes that were committed against those law enforcement agents who were stationed outside of our borders.

This is unacceptable, as has been mentioned. Anyone who attacks a U.S. Federal agent who is protecting our country, whether at home or abroad, must be held accountable and must be brought to justice.

I am proud to support this legislation to work with my colleagues across the aisle, and I am proud of the bipartisanship that Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CUELLAR, and so many others have brought forward today. It is very important. Again, this goes to the heart of accountability, and it goes to the heart of leaving no American behind.

I appreciate also the leadership of Senators JOHN CORNYN and CHRIS COONS on this very important initiative. Our country's heroes deserve to know that those of us in Congress in a bipartisan way will hold those to account who break the law. It is so important for us to stand by law enforcement, especially those who are willing to give their all outside of our borders.

Mr. BENTZ. In closing, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is necessary to ensure that Federal employees who are serving overseas can be protected by the American umbrella of justice.

We have seen since this tragic incident of those who were serving our country and lost their life and were injured. We have seen a myriad of attacks on diplomats and others outside of the boundaries of war. We have been stunned by actions against diplomats in embassies and outside of embassies.

So this is a bipartisan bill that was adopted by the Senate by unanimous consent, and I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation so the President can sign it into law and to be able to tell all of our Federal employees and diplomats who are standing in the name of that flag that is shown behind you, Mr. Speaker, that we do care about their service and their safety.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is necessary to ensure that federal employees who are serving overseas can be protected by the American umbrella of justice.

This is a bipartisan bill that was adopted by the Senate by unanimous consent.

I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting this legislation so that the President can sign it into law.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 921.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONFIDENTIALITY OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEER SUPPORT COUNSELING ACT

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1502) to make Federal law enforcement officer peer support communications confidential, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1502

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Confidentiality Opportunities for Peer Support Counseling Act” or the “COPS Counseling Act”.

SEC. 2. CONFIDENTIALITY OF PEER SUPPORT COMMUNICATIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.—The term “law enforcement agency” means a Federal agency that employs a law enforcement officer.

(2) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The term “law enforcement officer” has the meaning given the term “Federal law enforcement officer” in section 115 of title 18, United States Code.

(3) PEER SUPPORT COMMUNICATION.—The term “peer support communication” includes—

(A) an oral or written communication made in the course of a peer support counseling session;

(B) a note or report arising out of a peer support counseling session;

(C) a record of a peer support counseling session; or

(D) with respect to a communication made by a peer support participant in the course of a peer support counseling session, another communication, regarding the first communication, that is made between a peer support specialist and—

(i) another peer support specialist;

(ii) a staff member of a peer support counseling program; or

(iii) a supervisor of the peer support specialist.

(4) PEER SUPPORT COUNSELING PROGRAM.—The term “peer support counseling program” means a program provided by a law enforcement agency that provides counseling serv-

ices from a peer support specialist to a law enforcement officer of the agency.

(5) PEER SUPPORT COUNSELING SESSION.—The term “peer support counseling session” means any counseling formally provided through a peer support counseling program between a peer support specialist and 1 or more law enforcement officers.

(6) PEER SUPPORT PARTICIPANT.—The term “peer support participant” means a law enforcement officer who receives counseling services from a peer support specialist.

(7) PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST.—The term “peer support specialist” means a law enforcement officer who—

(A) has received training in—

(i) peer support counseling; and

(ii) providing emotional and moral support to law enforcement officers who have been involved in or exposed to an emotionally traumatic experience in the course of employment; and

(B) is designated by a law enforcement agency to provide the services described in subparagraph (A).

(b) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided in subsection (c), a peer support specialist or a peer support participant may not disclose the contents of a peer support communication to an individual who was not a party to the peer support communication.

(c) EXCEPTIONS.—Subsection (b) shall not apply to a peer support communication if—

(1) the peer support communication contains—

(A) an explicit threat of suicide by an individual in which the individual—

(i) shares—

(I) an intent to die by suicide; and

(II) a plan for a suicide attempt or the means by which the individual plans to carry out a suicide attempt; and

(ii) does not solely share that the individual is experiencing suicidal thoughts;

(B) an explicit threat by an individual of imminent and serious physical bodily harm or death to another individual;

(C) information—

(i) relating to the abuse or neglect of—

(I) a child; or

(II) an older or vulnerable individual; or

(ii) that is required by law to be reported; or

(D) an admission of criminal conduct;

(2) the disclosure is permitted by each peer support participant who was a party to, as applicable—

(A) the peer support communication;

(B) the peer support counseling session out of which the peer support communication arose;

(C) the peer support counseling session of which the peer support communication is a record; or

(D) the communication made in the course of a peer support counseling session that the peer support communication is regarding;

(3) a court of competent jurisdiction issues an order or subpoena requiring the disclosure of the peer support communication; or

(4) the peer support communication contains information that is required by law to be disclosed.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subsection (b) shall be construed to prohibit the disclosure of—

(1) an observation made by a law enforcement officer of a peer support participant outside of a peer support counseling session; or

(2) knowledge of a law enforcement officer about a peer support participant not gained from a peer support communication.

(e) DISCLOSURE OF RIGHTS.—Before the initial peer support counseling session of a peer support participant, a peer support specialist shall inform the peer support participant in writing of the confidentiality requirement

under subsection (b) and the exceptions to the requirement under subsection (c).

SEC. 3. BEST PRACTICES AND SUPPORT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FIRST RESPONDER.—The term “first responder” has the meaning given the term “public safety officer” in section 1204 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10284).

(2) FIRST RESPONDER AGENCY.—The term “first responder agency” means a Federal, State, local, or Tribal agency that employs or otherwise engages the services of a first responder.

(3) PEER SUPPORT COUNSELING PROGRAM.—The term “peer support counseling program” means a program provided by a first responder agency that provides counseling services from a peer support specialist to a first responder of the first responder agency.

(4) PEER SUPPORT PARTICIPANT.—The term “peer support participant” means a first responder who receives counseling services from a peer support specialist.

(5) PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST.—The term “peer support specialist” means a first responder who—

(A) has received training in—

(i) peer support counseling; and

(ii) providing emotional and moral support to first responders who have been involved in or exposed to an emotionally traumatic experience in the course of the duties of those first responders; and

(B) is designated by a first responder agency to provide the services described in subparagraph (A).

(b) REPORT ON BEST PRACTICES.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall develop a report on best practices and professional standards for peer support counseling programs for first responder agencies that includes—

(1) advice on—

(A) establishing and operating peer support counseling programs; and

(B) training and certifying peer support specialists;

(2) a code of ethics for peer support specialists;

(3) recommendations for continuing education for peer support specialists;

(4) advice on disclosing to first responders any confidentiality rights of peer support participants; and

(5) information on—

(A) the different types of peer support counseling programs in use by first responder agencies;

(B) any differences in peer support counseling programs offered across categories of first responders; and

(C) the important role senior first responders play in supporting access to mental health resources.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Attorney General shall support and encourage the implementation of peer support counseling programs in first responder agencies by—

(1) making the report developed under subsection (b) publicly available on the website of the Department of Justice; and

(2) providing a list of peer support specialist training programs on the website of the Department of Justice.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that Federal, State, local, and Tribal police officers, sheriffs, and other law enforcement officers across the United States who serve with valor, dignity, and integrity deserve the gratitude and respect of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from

Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BENTZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 1502, the COPS Counseling Act, a bill that will encourage the adoption of law enforcement peer counseling programs across the country and protect the privacy of Federal officers as they seek mental health support.

It is important to all of us that we promote the mental health and well-being of our law enforcement officers, not only in order to help individual officers but also because it helps bolster the safety of our communities and the people our officers take a solemn oath to protect.

Law enforcement officers play a special role in our communities. They are specifically called upon to protect and serve. Often they see, encounter, and respond to horrendous situations that are both dangerous and stressful and often life-threatening.

I don't know how many times, Mr. Speaker, we have heard on the news where officers have said: I have never seen this in my lifetime. I have never seen this horrific scene. I have never seen a car crash. I have never seen the violence.

With the pandemic of COVID-19, we have seen officers coming to scenes that they expressed that they have never seen. That has an impact even though they must continue to rise the next day and serve.

They are indeed first responders, on the scene when unthinkable and tragic events take place, whether they be mass shootings, terrible incidents of domestic or sexual violence, and other horrific instances of victimization. Even after the incidents are over and the threats addressed, these situations can long remain with officers. As they seek to protect us, we must also seek to protect them when they are in need.

We have a hearing today on issues dealing with gun safety. That is not this bill. But what I will say is that the officers in times of crisis are always the first ones to come to school shootings, violent scenes where they see children who are wounded or tragically are dead. Imagine an officer having to pick him or herself up and carry on after you have seen, yes, little children—high school, middle school, elementary school—who have been fallen

because of school shootings. That is a particularly unique circumstance. But there are many, many others.

That is why I support this bill which would help officers who seek counseling. The bill provides confidentiality to Federal law enforcement officers by restricting individuals who participate in a peer support counseling session from disclosing communications arising out of peer support counseling session.

In doing so, however, the bill defines clear and necessary exceptions to confidentiality in circumstances including explicit threats of suicide; any admission of criminal conduct; any explicit threat of imminent and serious physical harm or death to an individual; any information relating to the abuse or neglect of a child, older person, or vulnerable person; or any information that is required by law to be reported. That had to be clarified.

Additionally, this bill encourages implementation of peer counseling programs within the entire first responder community by requiring the Department of Justice to make best practices publicly available on its website. Information I have found has been the key in helping to restore the stability of these individuals who are needing the kind of counseling that we offer.

The Department of Justice is also required to provide a list of training programs for public safety officers to become peer support mentors. Always we have been told that to have a like fellow traveler, a like experienced person, a like person in your career or profession, Mr. Speaker, is sometimes the best medicine, the best cure, and the best direction toward treatment.

These are important steps that will help our officers and the communities they serve.

As we take action on this Senate-passed bill, I want to recognize our colleague from Maryland, Representative DAVID TRONE, for his work in introducing the House companion legislation. I thank the chairman of our committee, Mr. NADLER, for being focused on this legislation, and I am delighted that my subcommittee is also very interested in this kind of work.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important bill, I am proud to support it, and I ask my colleagues to do the same.

Today, I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting S. 1502, the "COPS Counseling Act," a bill that will encourage the adoption of law enforcement peer counseling programs across the country and protect the privacy of federal officers as they seek mental health support.

It is important to all of us that we promote the mental health and well-being of our law enforcement officers, not only in order to help individual officers but also because it helps bolster the safety of our communities and the people our officers take a solemn oath to protect.

Law enforcement officers play a special role in our communities, specifically called upon to protect and serve.

Often, they see, encounter, and respond to horrendous situations that are both dangerous and stressful, and often life-threatening.

They are indeed first responders, on the scene when unthinkable and tragic events take place, whether they be mass shootings, terrible incidents of domestic or sexual violence, and other horrific instances of victimization.

Even after the incidents are over and the threats addressed, these situations can long remain with officers. As they seek to protect us, we must also seek to help them when they are in need.

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Additionally, this bill encourages implementation of peer counseling programs within the entire first responder community by requiring the Department of Justice to make best practices publicly available on its website.

The Department of Justice is also required to provide a list of training programs for public safety officers to become peer support mentors.

These are important steps that will help our officers and the communities they serve.

As we take action on this Senate-passed bill, I want to recognize our colleague from Maryland, Representative DAVID TRONE, for his work in introducing the House companion legislation.

This is an important bill. I am proud to support it and ask that my colleagues do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1502, the COPS Counseling Act of 2021.

With recent attacks on law enforcement agencies from the left, including calls to defund the police, officers around the country have suffered from persistent and increasing physical and mental stress.

Police departments are experiencing dropping retention rates and officers are left with fewer colleagues to support them while also facing more crime. As a result the need for new and better performing peer support groups with State and local law enforcement agencies has risen.

This bill would help alleviate some of that strain from dealing with the ever-increasing amount of violent crime over the last year by supporting and encouraging the use of peer support groups. Some people feel like there is a stigma related to addressing mental health needs, making mental wellness difficult to address.

Peer support programs can help address this challenge in the law enforcement community. Officers who are in

need of help may be most comfortable reaching out to their fellow officers especially if their confidentiality is protected. This bill requires the Department of Justice, in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services, to develop a report of best practices for peer support programs. These best practices required under the COPS Counseling Act will help State and local law enforcement agencies establish new peer counseling programs and enhance existing ones.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to again emphasize the massive number of law enforcement officers across the Nation. There are, first of all, 18,000 police departments of varying levels, meaning that we think of police, constables, or sheriffs, all of them law enforcement officers. And every day, as we speak, they are out on the front lines and, again, seeing enormous tragedy.

I really want to emphasize what it means to come upon a scene dealing with an injury to a child. Gun violence, car crashes, fires, police go to those scenes as well. For too long, we have not stopped for a moment to provide these resources and to provide these services.

I hope that, as we pass this legislation, this will be the catalyst for local entities to build on their mental health relief and that they will also focus on peer-directed mental health relief.

We can imagine, in the course of all the scenes that we have seen in this body, on this floor, in this year, starting with January 6, where police officers were involved, that there is no doubt that this legislation is crucial. But it works across the Nation, and it should be a tool for ensuring the strength and the stability of our officers who are out there, men and women, family members, every single day.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD).

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank the gentlewoman from Texas for bringing this bill forward. It is very much needed.

I rise, Mr. Speaker, to support the COPS Counseling Act, which is now one step away from reaching the President's desk, I hope.

I spent almost 40 years in law enforcement, including 12 as the sheriff of Duval County, Florida. So I can tell you, I have seen, firsthand, the challenges that some officers face in dealing with not just acute stress for many years but the chronic stress over every day that they go to work.

Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that law enforcement is a dangerous profession.

But these officers face potential life-threatening situations every day they go to work, and that is the chronic stress that really has a significant mental health impact upon these officers. Every day, they put their lives in that breach in defense of our communities.

In recent years, we have seen a rise in ambush killings of officers and just overall assaults on officers, attacking them simply for the uniform that they wear. In fact, by just the middle of this year, we experienced as many shootings and killings of police officers as we did for the entire year of 2020.

We also witness now the demoralization, the delegitimization, and the defunding of police currently taking place around the U.S.

We have also watched law enforcement work through a deadly pandemic, losing so many officers to COVID-19 over these last 2 years.

To make things more difficult, many officers struggle to ask for help, even when they need it. Some officers feel traditional forms of counseling cannot truly understand what they are going through. They also might be concerned that seeking counseling could negatively impact on their careers. It could be seen as a weakness.

That is why the COPS Counseling Act is so very important.

Again, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas. This provides the opportunity for law enforcement officers to receive confidential and peer-led support services.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is going to save lives. It is going to save officers' lives, and I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on the COPS Counseling Act to get this bill signed into law.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am very glad that we are able to come together, recognizing that our law enforcement officers face dangers every day. When I look to the support for that community, I really look to the family of citizens, the family of the community, no matter where you are, and I think that should be the statement and the litmus test.

When you speak to community persons who generally go about their daily business, and local governments, you can be assured that there is an embodiment of support.

There is the sense of horror when we see circumstances that tragically hit this very Congress, this very House, on January 6, when that was not how brave law enforcement officers were treated. But we are well aware of the everyday work that is done.

Before I left to come to Washington, I had the tragic duty of going to the funeral of a fallen. What an amazing individual that Deputy Atkins was, and the outpouring of love and affection by the community reflected that.

To show the humanity of officers—they have moms and dads and wives

and children—they read a letter from his mother. I just simply want to put this letter in from his mother.

"When I last saw you, before you said good-bye, I said the prayer I taught you, 'As I lay me down to sleep.' Nadia heard me and told me you always said that prayer." Nadia was his wife.

"And that made me really feel good, Kareem. I love you so much and I will never stop loving you," the letter said.

A mother, a father, a fallen son. These are the true human aspects of service.

So this help to officers who have seen, or been engaged, or seen fellow officers lose their lives, or been wounded, or, again, come upon that scene that they will be interviewed, saying that they have never seen it before, never seen something so devastating like it before, this is an important step forward, as was the real justice bill for veterans, some of whom turn out to be police officers.

I think we are moving so much in the right direction to be effectively concerned about the whole person, and that is what this legislation, I believe, will move forward on.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article from the Houston Chronicle.

[From the Houston Chronicle, Oct. 25, 2021]

DEPUTIES LINE UP BY THE DOZEN TO HONOR SLAIN PCT. 4 DEPUTY KAREEM ATKINS

Hundreds gathered at a north Houston church Monday afternoon to pay their respects to Kareem Atkins, the Precinct 4 deputy constable who was fatally shot while trying to stop a robbery.

The day began with a private service for Atkins' family. Officers lined up hours before the memorial service at Champion Forest Baptist Church to take a last look at their friend, removing their hats and saying a few words over the flag-draped casket at the front of the massive church hall.

A slideshow played on screens next to the altar, with images of Atkins cuddling with his wife, Nadia Aweineh, and their young children, Adalynn, a toddler, and Aiden, a newborn. In other photos, Atkins was pictured in uniform with fellow deputies and posing for group shots while out on the town with friends, a broad smile on his face.

While some attendees silently wiped away tears after viewing Atkins' casket, others laughed and shared stories, remembering Atkins as the "loving, protective, funny, great dancing (or at least so he thought), outgoing and flashy guy" described in the funeral's program.

"It seemed to me Kareem had many, many, best friends, and, on a daily basis, I saw his co-workers routinely look to him for guidance," Precinct 4 Constable Mark Herman said at the memorial. "Despite his young age, he was someone you could count on to be calm, cool and collected. He had a unique strength about him. He was the rock we all leaned on."

"If I had 100 more Kareem Atkinses (in my department), this boss would sleep much better at night," Herman said.

Atkins' godmother and former babysitter also spoke, sharing a letter Atkins' mother, Celine Pemberton-Atkins, wrote to her son after his death. In the letter, Pemberton-Atkins reminisced about the times her son would surprise her with visits home to New York City, where he was born, and about the inside jokes they shared that would not make sense to anyone else.

His mother noted in her letter that she'd just learned he was planning to travel home and surprise her for Thanksgiving.

"When I last saw you, before you said goodbye, I said the prayer I taught you, 'As I lay me down to sleep,' Nadia heard me and told me you always said that prayer . . . and that made me feel really good, Kareem. I love you so much and I will never stop loving you," the letter said.

END OF WATCH

After the service, attendees filed out of the church for a color guard ceremony. The rows of friends, family and officers sat in silence amid a few isolated sobs as pallbearers wheeled Atkins' casket to the family. The color guard folded the American flag that was covering the casket and handed it to the constable, who gave it to Atkins' wife.

Police dispatchers declared the "end of watch" over the air. A three-volley salute followed. Then Atkins' coffin was placed in a hearse to be taken to Klein Memorial Park Cemetery in Tomball.

The funeral came more than a week after Atkins was shot and killed—and two other Precinct 4 deputies were wounded—while attempting to arrest a robbery suspect at 45 Norte Sports Bar, where they worked side jobs as security guards.

The shooter, who opened fire with a semi-automatic rifle, wounded Deputies Darryl Garrett and Juqaim Barthen, according to police. Garrett remained in the intensive care unit Monday, while Barthen, who attended the service, is still recovering.

On HoustonChronicle.com: 'They were the 3 amigos,' fiancée of wounded Precinct 4 deputy says after ambush in north Houston.

Police have not identified or apprehended any suspects in the shooting. A reward for information leading to the assailant's arrest and conviction was increased Wednesday to \$75,000.

MAKING TIME FLY ON THE SHIFT

In comments during the funeral, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo declared Oct. 25 "Deputy Kareem Atkins Day" in Harris County from this year forward.

"When somebody ambushed Deputy Barthen, Deputy Garrett and Deputy Atkins, that attack on our protectors, that attack on you all, was an attack on our entire community," Hidalgo said.

"They tried to tear down what makes our community great, to tear down that spirit of service, to break that trust that binds us, to bring fear, but we won't tolerate that. The way we fight back against that, and honor Deputy Atkins' life, is by living by the values he embodied," Hidalgo said.

Others attending the funeral remarked about Atkins' good humor and generous spirit.

Indrani Boodram and her co-workers came to support Atkins' father, who worked with them at a medical center in north Cypress.

She remembered how the younger Atkins helped her move about five years ago, despite never having met Boodram. "He had just moved here from New York and he knew no one. He even bought pizza when he came and told me he would stay with me until I was completely done."

Canray Warren, who worked other security jobs with Atkins at bars and clubs around the area, remembered the 30-year-old as someone who made the time fly on nights when the staff were tired and wanted to check out for the night. When it was nearing time to start closing shop, the pair would simply exchange looks and start cracking up.

"He kept us laughing and kept a smile on our face," he said. "We'd joke about telling the DJ to play boring songs so everybody could move out of the club faster," Warren said.

Warren explained he wouldn't want to take a shift if he learned that Atkins wasn't working with him. And now, looking forward, work won't be the same without him.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. RESCHENTHALER).

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend and colleague, Congressman BENTZ, for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to speak in support of the COPS Counseling Act. It is a piece of bipartisan legislation that I introduced with my good friend, DAVID TRONE from Maryland. Congressman TRONE has been an incredible partner. I am really grateful for all of his hard work, and as everybody in this body knows, no one works harder than DAVID TRONE when he is pushing a bill. It is quite amazing to see and watch.

Mr. Speaker, every day, our Nation's law enforcement officers put their own lives at risk to keep us safe. That service does not come without sacrifice.

Last year, 178 current or Active-Duty law enforcement officers died by suicide. Just this year, 121 officers have already taken their own lives.

S. 1502 seeks to alleviate the stressors law enforcement experiences by establishing clear confidentiality standards for peer-to-peer counseling.

A Fraternal Order of Police survey showed that 73 percent of surveyed officers found peer-to-peer support counseling to be the most helpful mental health resource offered by police departments. Unfortunately, an officer's peer support communications can be discoverable on public record; it can be used in court proceedings; and worse, it can even impact and affect their employment.

By creating clear standards for confidentiality, the COPS Counseling Act would provide officers with peace of mind that their privacy is protected when they seek peer support services.

This legislation also encourages State and local first responder agencies to adopt peer counseling programs so more officers can take advantage of this important mental health resource.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support our Nation's law enforcement officers by voting for this legislation.

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As I indicated in my discussions, I think the idea of the COPS Counseling Act is a profound statement that we see the whole person in law enforcement. We don't just see the person's uniform externally, but we see the whole person.

The reading of the words of Deputy Atkins' mother was to indicate we see the family members, the children; we see the neighbors; we see the commu-

nities. In order to do that, we must then have a holistic approach to the service of these officers.

I can't help but think about officers coming upon an injury to a child in whatever form it is, and I have heard them speak of it. It is the worst investigation case to have. It is the worst scene that they have ever seen because it is a child.

The COPS Counseling Act will help our law enforcement officers and also the communities they serve. We can and must do both. When officers are in need of counseling, we should remove barriers and disincentives that are standing in the way.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to see the whole person as they serve the community and the Nation, and join me in supporting this legislation so that the President can sign it into law.

Mr. Speaker, the COPS Counseling Act will help our law enforcement officers and also the communities they serve.

We can and must do both.

When officers are in need of counseling, we should remove barriers and disincentives standing in the way.

Therefore, I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting this legislation so that the President can sign it into law.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the COPS Counseling Act and thank my friend from Maryland, Mr. TRONE for leading this important bill.

Mr. Speaker, Every day police officers protect our communities with the uncommon character that's common in police departments. The men and women in blue proudly protect and serve, braving challenging circumstances and running toward danger to keep us safe. Both they and their families feel this stress. I know this firsthand as my father is a retire NYPD Detective.

As well, in the course of duty, police officers face dangerous and sometimes traumatic situations. Oftentimes, only a police officer can truly understand the stress their fellow officers are dealing with.

Peer counseling has proven to be an effective method for officers to cope with this stress, in fact 73 percent of officers say it's the most helpful mental health resource available to them. The COPS Counseling Act ensures more officers can access this important resource and protects officers' privacy, eliminating the stigma of seeking help. Police officers do a dangerous and necessary job to protect our communities. The COPS Counseling Act helps police officers help keep each other safe so they can keep us all safe. I urge a yes vote.

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 1502, the COPS Counseling Act of 2021. I was also proud to cosponsor the House companion to this bill—H.R. 3070—introduced by Representatives DAVID TRONE of Maryland and GUY RESCHENTHALER of Pennsylvania.

This bipartisan and bicameral legislation would encourage the adoption of law enforcement peer counseling programs across the nation by requiring the U.S. Department of Justice to issue and make publicly available a report on best practices for such programs. To

further support their implementation, the bill would also direct the Department to provide a list of training programs for individuals to become peer support mentors.

Our law enforcement officers often face challenging and at times traumatic experiences while performing their duties and keeping our communities safe. It's critical we ensure they have the necessary level of support to address these situations, and peer-to-peer counseling can serve as an effective mental health outlet to share their personal experiences; access and identify resources; and receive help and guidance within a trusted network of colleagues.

To ensure peer counseling programs are effective, it's also important we protect the privacy of those officers seeking mental health services. That's why I'm pleased the COPS Counseling Act would require that the information disclosed during peer support counseling sessions by Federal law enforcement officers is kept confidential, except under certain circumstances such as threats of physical harm and admission of criminal activity. This guarantee of privacy will go a long way in building confidence and encouraging more Federal law enforcement officers to take advantage of the opportunities provided through these programs.

Every day, our brave men and women in law enforcement put their lives on the line to protect our communities. As Members of Congress, we must redouble our efforts to support them, including through mental health and counseling services. That's why I support the COPS Counseling Act and urge my colleagues to do the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1502.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

PROTECTING AMERICA'S FIRST RESPONDERS ACT OF 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1511) to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 with respect to payments to certain public safety officers who have become permanently and totally disabled as a result of personal injuries sustained in the line of duty, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1511

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Protecting America's First Responders Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. PAYMENT OF DEATH AND DISABILITY BENEFITS UNDER PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' DEATH BENEFITS PROGRAM.

Section 1201 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10281) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking "the Bureau shall pay"; and

(B) by inserting ", and calculated in accordance with subsection (i), shall be payable by the Bureau" after "subsection (h)";

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking "the Bureau shall pay the same benefit" and inserting "a benefit shall be payable";

(B) by striking "that is payable under subsection (a) with respect to the date on which the catastrophic injury occurred," and inserting "in the same amount that would be payable, as of the date such injury was sustained (including";

(C) by inserting ", and calculated in accordance with subsection (i), if such determination were a determination under subsection (a)" before "Provided, That"; and

(D) by striking "necessary;" and all that follows and inserting "necessary.";

(3) in subsection (c), by striking "\$3,000" and inserting "\$6,000, adjusted in accordance with subsection (h)";

(4) in subsection (h), by striking "subsection (a)" and inserting "subsections (a) and (b) and the level of the interim benefit payable immediately before such October 1 under subsection (c)";

(5) by striking subsection (i) and inserting the following:

"(i) The amount payable under subsections (a) and (b), with respect to the death or permanent and total disability of a public safety officer, shall be the greater of—

"(1) the amount payable under the relevant subsection as of the date of death or of the catastrophic injury of the public safety officer; or

"(2) in any case in which the claim filed thereunder has been pending for more than 365 days at the time of final determination by the Bureau, the amount that would be payable under the relevant subsection if the death or the catastrophic injury of the public safety officer had occurred on the date on which the Bureau makes such final determination.";

(6) in subsection (m), by inserting ", (b)," after "subsection (a)".

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS WITH RESPECT TO PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' DEATH BENEFITS PROGRAM.

Section 1204 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10284) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), and (9) as paragraphs (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (13), and (14), respectively;

(2) by striking paragraph (4), as so redesignated, and inserting:

"(4) 'catastrophic injury' means an injury, the direct and proximate result of which is to permanently render an individual functionally incapable (including through a directly and proximately resulting neurocognitive disorder), based on the state of medicine on the date on which the claim is determined by the Bureau, of performing work, including sedentary work: Provided, That, if it appears that a claimant may be functionally capable of performing work—

"(A) the Bureau shall disregard work where any compensation provided is de minimis, nominal, honorary, or mere reimbursement of incidental expenses, such as—

"(i) work that involves ordinary or simple tasks, that because of the claimed disability,

the claimant cannot perform without significantly more supervision, accommodation, or assistance than is typically provided to an individual without the claimed disability doing similar work;

"(ii) work that involves minimal duties that make few or no demands on the claimant and are of little or no economic value to the employer; or

"(iii) work that is performed primarily for therapeutic purposes and aids the claimant in the physical or mental recovery from the claimed disability; and

"(B) the claimant shall be presumed, absent clear and convincing medical evidence to the contrary as determined by the Bureau, to be functionally incapable of performing such work if the direct and proximate result of the injury renders the claimant—

"(i) blind;

"(ii) paraplegic; or

"(iii) quadriplegic;"

(3) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated, by striking "at the time of the public safety officer's fatal or catastrophic injury" and inserting "at the time of the public safety officer's death or fatal injury (in connection with any claim predicated upon such death or injury) or the date of the public safety officer's catastrophic injury or of the final determination by the Bureau of any claim predicated upon such catastrophic injury";

(4) in paragraph (7), as so redesignated, by inserting ", including an individual who, as such a member, engages in scene security or traffic management as the primary or only duty of the individual during emergency response" before the semicolon;

(5) in paragraph (9), as so redesignated by striking "delinquency)," and inserting "delinquency);"

(6) in paragraph (13), as so redesignated, by inserting ", and includes (as may be prescribed by regulation hereunder) a legally organized volunteer fire department that is a nonprofit entity and provides services without regard to any particular relationship (such as a subscription) a member of the public may have with such a department" before the semicolon;

(7) in paragraph (14), as so redesignated,—

(A) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting:

"(A) an individual serving a public agency in an official capacity, with or without compensation, as a law enforcement officer, as a firefighter, or as a chaplain: Provided, That (notwithstanding section 1205(b)(2) or (3)) the Bureau shall, absent clear and convincing evidence to the contrary as determined by the Bureau, deem the actions outside of jurisdiction taken by any such law enforcement officer or firefighter, to have been taken while serving such public agency in such capacity, in any case in which the principal legal officer of such public agency, and the head of such agency, together, certify that such actions—

"(i) were not unreasonable;

"(ii) would have been within the authority and line of duty of such law enforcement officer or such firefighter to take, had they been taken in a jurisdiction where such law enforcement officer or firefighter was authorized to act, in the ordinary course, in an official capacity; and

"(iii) would have resulted in the payment of full line-of-duty death or disability benefits (as applicable), if any such benefits typically were payable by (or with respect to or on behalf of) such public agency, as of the date the actions were taken;"

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), and (E) as subparagraphs (C), (D), (E), and (F), respectively;

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (A), the following new subparagraph:

“(B) a candidate officer who is engaging in an activity or exercise that itself is a formal or required part of the program in which the candidate officer is enrolled or admitted, as provided in this section;” and

(D) by striking subparagraph (E), as so redesignated, and inserting the following:

“(E) a member of a rescue squad or ambulance crew who, as authorized or licensed by law and by the applicable agency or entity, is engaging in rescue activity or in the provision of emergency medical services: Provided, That (notwithstanding section 1205(b)(2) or (3)) the Bureau shall, absent clear and convincing evidence to the contrary as determined by the Bureau, deem the actions outside of jurisdiction taken by any such member to have been thus authorized or licensed, in any case in which the principal legal officer of such agency or entity, and the head of such agency or entity, together, certify that such actions—

“(i) were not unreasonable;

“(ii) would have been within the authority and line of duty of such member to take, had they been taken in a jurisdiction where such member was authorized or licensed by law and by a pertinent agency or entity to act, in the ordinary course; and

“(iii) would have resulted in the payment of full line-of-duty death or disability benefits (as applicable), if any such benefits typically were payable by (or with respect to or on behalf of) such applicable agency or entity, as of the date the action was taken;”

(8) by inserting before paragraph (4), as so redesignated, the following new paragraphs:

“(1) ‘action outside of jurisdiction’ means an action, not in the course of any compensated employment involving either the performance of public safety activity or the provision of security services, by a law enforcement officer, firefighter, or member of a rescue squad or ambulance crew that—

“(A) was taken in a jurisdiction where—

“(i) the law enforcement officer or firefighter then was not authorized to act, in the ordinary course, in an official capacity; or

“(ii) the member of a rescue squad or ambulance crew then was not authorized or licensed to act, in the ordinary course, by law or by the applicable agency or entity;

“(B) then would have been within the authority and line of duty of—

“(i) a law enforcement officer or a firefighter to take, who was authorized to act, in the ordinary course, in an official capacity, in the jurisdiction where the action was taken; or

“(ii) a member of a rescue squad or ambulance crew to take, who was authorized or licensed by law and by a pertinent agency or entity to act, in the ordinary course, in the jurisdiction where the action was taken; and

“(C) was, in an emergency situation that presented an imminent and significant danger or threat to human life or of serious bodily harm to any individual, taken—

“(i) by a law enforcement officer—

“(I) to prevent, halt, or respond to the immediate consequences of a crime (including an incident of juvenile delinquency); or

“(II) while engaging in a rescue activity or in the provision of emergency medical services;

“(ii) by a firefighter—

“(I) while engaging in fire suppression; or

“(II) while engaging in a rescue activity or in the provision of emergency medical services; or

“(iii) by a member of a rescue squad or ambulance crew, while engaging in a rescue activity or in the provision of emergency medical services;

“(2) ‘candidate officer’ means an individual who is enrolled or admitted, as a cadet or trainee, in a formal and officially established program of instruction or of training (such

as a police or fire academy) that is specifically intended to result upon completion, in the—

“(A) commissioning of such individual as a law enforcement officer;

“(B) conferral upon such individual of official authority to engage in fire suppression (as an officer or employee of a public fire department or as an officially recognized or designated member of a legally organized volunteer fire department); or

“(C) granting to such individual official authorization or license to engage in a rescue activity, or in the provision of emergency medical services, as a member of a rescue squad, or as a member of an ambulance crew that is (or is a part of) the agency or entity that is sponsoring the individual’s enrollment or admission;

“(3) ‘blind’ means an individual who has central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with the use of a correcting lens or whose eye is accompanied by a limitation in the fields of vision such that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle no greater than 20 degrees;” and

(9) in the matter following paragraph (10), as so redesignated, by inserting the following new paragraphs:

“(11) ‘neurocognitive disorder’ means a disorder that is characterized by a clinically significant decline in cognitive functioning and may include symptoms and signs such as disturbances in memory, executive functioning (that is, higher-level cognitive processes, such as, regulating attention, planning, inhibiting responses, decision-making), visual-spatial functioning, language, speech, perception, insight, judgment, or an insensitivity to social standards; and

“(12) ‘sedentary work’ means work that—

“(A) involves lifting articles weighing no more than 10 pounds at a time or occasionally lifting or carrying articles such as docket files, ledgers, or small tools; and

“(B) despite involving sitting on a regular basis, may require walking or standing on an occasional basis.”

SEC. 4. DUE DILIGENCE IN PAYING BENEFIT CLAIMS UNDER PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS’ DEATH BENEFITS PROGRAM.

Section 1206(b) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10288(b)) is amended by striking “the Bureau may not” and all that follows and inserting the following: “the Bureau—

“(1) may use available investigative tools, including subpoenas, to—

“(A) adjudicate or to expedite the processing of the benefit claim, if the Bureau deems such use to be necessary to adjudicate or conducive to expediting the adjudication of such claim; and

“(B) obtain information or documentation from third parties, including public agencies, if the Bureau deems such use to be necessary to adjudicate or conducive to expediting the adjudication of a claim; and

“(2) may not abandon the benefit claim unless the Bureau has used investigative tools, including subpoenas, to obtain the information or documentation deemed necessary to adjudicate such claim by the Bureau under subparagraph (1)(B).”

SEC. 5. EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO DEPENDENTS OF CERTAIN PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS.

Section 1216(b) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10306(b)) is amended, in the first sentence, by striking “may” and inserting “shall (unless prospective assistance has been provided)”.

SEC. 6. TECHNICAL CORRECTION.

Section 1205(e)(3)(B) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10285(e)(3)(B)) is amended by striking

“subparagraph (B)(ix)” and inserting “subparagraph (I)”.

SEC. 7. SUBPOENA POWER.

Section 806 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10225) is amended—

(1) by inserting “Attorney General, the” before the “Bureau of Justice Assistance”;

(2) by striking “may appoint” and inserting “may appoint (to be assigned or employed on an interim or as-needed basis) such hearing examiners (who shall, if so designated by the Attorney General, be understood to be comprised within the meaning of ‘special government employee’ under section 202 of title 18, United States Code)”;

(3) by striking “under this chapter. The” and inserting “or other law. The Attorney General, the”; and

(4) by inserting “conduct examinations” after “examine witnesses.”

SEC. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—

(1) CERTAIN INJURIES.—The amendments made to paragraphs (2) and (7) of section 1204 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10284) shall apply with respect to injuries occurring on or after January 1, 2008.

(2) MATTERS PENDING.—Except as provided in paragraph (1), the amendments made by this Act shall apply to any matter pending, before the Bureau or otherwise, on the date of enactment of this Act, or filed (consistent with pre-existing effective dates) or accruing after that date.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE FOR WTC RESPONDERS.—

(1) CERTAIN NEW CLAIMS.—Not later than two years after the effective date of this Act, a WTC responder may file a claim, under section 1201(b) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10281(b)), that is predicated on a personal injury sustained in the line of duty by such responder as a result of the September 11, 2001, attacks, where—

(A) no claim under such section 1201(b) so predicated has previously been filed; or

(B) a claim under such section 1201(b) so predicated had previously been denied, in a final agency determination, on the basis (in whole or in part) that the claimant was not totally disabled.

(2) CLAIMS FOR A DECEASED WTC RESPONDER.—Not later than two years after the effective date of this Act, a claim may be filed, constructively under section 1201(a) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10281(a)), where a WTC responder who otherwise could have filed a claim pursuant to paragraph (1) has died before such effective date (or dies not later than 365 days after such effective date), or where a WTC responder has filed such a claim but dies while it is pending before the Bureau: Provided, That—

(A) no claim under such section 1201(a) otherwise shall have been filed, or determined, in a final agency determination; and

(B) if it is determined, in a final agency determination, that a claim under such paragraph (1) would have been payable had the WTC responder not died, then the WTC responder shall irrefutably be presumed (solely for purposes of determining to whom benefits otherwise pursuant to such paragraph (1) may be payable under the claim filed constructively under such section 1201(a)) to have died as the direct and proximate result of the injury on which the claim under such paragraph (1) would have been predicated.

(3) DIFFERENCE IN BENEFIT PAY.—In the event that a claim under section 1201(b) of

title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10281(b)) and predicated on an injury sustained in the line of duty by a WTC responder as a result of the September 11, 2001, attacks was approved, in a final agency determination, before the effective date of this Act, the Bureau shall, upon application filed (not later than three years after such effective date of this Act) by the payee (or payees) indicated in subparagraphs (A) or (B), pay a bonus in the amount of the difference (if any) between the amount that was paid pursuant to such determination and the amount that would have been payable had the amendments made by this Act, other than those indicated in subsection (b)(1), been in effect on the date of such determination—

(A) to the WTC responder, if living on the date the application is determined, in a final agency determination; or

(B) if the WTC responder is not living on the date indicated in subparagraph (A), to the individual (or individuals), if living on such date, to whom benefits would have been payable on such date under section 1201(a) of such title I (34 U.S.C. 10281(a)) had the application been, instead, a claim under such section 1201(a).

(4) **SPECIAL LIMITED RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—A claim filed pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2) shall be determined as though the date of catastrophic injury of the public safety officer were the date of enactment of this Act, for purposes of determining the amount that may be payable.

SEC. 9. SAFEGUARDING AMERICA'S FIRST RESPONDERS.

Section 3 of Safeguarding America's First Responders Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-157) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2021” and inserting “during the period beginning on January 1, 2020, and ending on the termination date” and

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2021” and inserting “during the period beginning on January 1, 2020, and ending on the termination date”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) **TERMINATION DATE.**—For purposes of this section, the term ‘termination date’ means the earlier of—

“(1) the date on which the public health emergency declared by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) on January 31, 2020, with respect to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), expires; and

“(2) December 31, 2023.”.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BENTZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I support S. 1511, the Protecting America's First Responders

Act of 2021, which will make important improvements to the Department of Justice Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program.

Every day, public safety officers put their lives on the line for the greater good of those whom they have taken an oath to serve and protect. Unfortunately, some of those brave men and women make the ultimate sacrifice and die while in the line of duty.

The Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program, which is administered by the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Assistance, was established in 1976 to provide certain benefits to families of these officers, as well as to officers who are disabled as a result of their service.

A death benefit is provided to eligible survivors of public safety officers whose deaths are sustained in or due to actions in the line of duty.

□ 1330

An education benefit is provided to spouses and children of public safety officers killed or disabled while on duty, and the program provides disability benefits to officers catastrophically injured in the line of duty.

This program provides critical support to these officers and their families, and it is important that Congress continually oversee implementation and periodically update it to make it more effective and more efficient. That is what this bill would do.

Specifically, the bill would expand the program's restrictive definition of disability so that permanently disabled first responders are able to perform work for therapeutic purposes, work that involves simple tasks, or work that provides special accommodations and still receive PSOB benefits.

The bill would provide for retroactive disability benefits to public safety officers who responded to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, allowing those first responders who became permanently disabled as a result of their work at Ground Zero to reapply for disability benefits under the bill's expanded disability definition.

I am not from New York. I represent Texas. But I was at the edge of the creation of the Homeland Security Committee, which was generated around the tragic terrorist acts of 9/11, and interacted with those individuals who, time after time, went onto the smoldering grounds of Ground Zero to recover the remains of all who had fallen on that day.

They never stopped, Mr. Speaker, month after month, day after day. We honored those persons in the 20th commemoration of 9/11. I will speak about that as we continue this debate. There was no more moving, powerful, tragic, or devastating a moment in America's life, among others.

This bill would address lengthy delays in processing benefit claims by permitting the DOJ to use subpoena power to expedite claims so that impacted officers and families aren't left

waiting for their owed relief during the most difficult of times.

For cases pending longer than 365 days, the bill would index the award amount to the date of the final determination, rather than the date of death or injury, so that families aren't financially penalized for any delays.

The bill would extend benefits to certain public safety officers not currently covered, including Good Samaritan officers who act outside of their jurisdiction in an emergency situation, trainee officers, and fire police who handle traffic and crime scene management.

The bill would close a loophole in the program where children born after the death or disability of a public safety officer are not able to receive education benefits and mandate that the DOJ provide backpay of educational benefits to children previously left out.

Finally, this bill also includes an extension of Safeguarding America's First Responders Act concerning the provision of benefits for officers who contract COVID-19 in the line of duty.

I thank the gentleman from New Jersey, my dear friend, Representative BILL PASCRELL, for his leadership of the House companion to this bill and his longstanding service as champion of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, which I am delighted to have been a part of, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill today.

Mr. Speaker, I support S. 1511, the “Protecting America's First Responders Act of 2021,” which will make important improvements to the Department of Justice's Public Safety Officers' Benefits program.

Every day, public safety officers put their lives on the line for the greater good of those whom they have taken an oath to serve and protect.

Unfortunately, some of these brave men and women make the ultimate sacrifice and die while in the line of duty.

The Public Safety Officers' Benefit Program, which is administered by the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Assistance, was established in 1976 to provide certain benefits to the families of these officers as well as to officers who are disabled as a result of their service.

A death benefit is provided to eligible survivors of public safety officers whose deaths are sustained in or due to actions in the line of duty.

An education benefit is provided to spouses and children of public safety officers killed or disabled while on duty.

And, the Program provides disability benefits to officers catastrophically injured in the line-of-duty.

This Program provides critical support to these officers and their families, and it is important that Congress continually oversee its implementation and periodically update it to make it more effective and more efficient. That is what this bill would do.

Specifically, the bill would expand the Program's restrictive definition of disability so that permanently disabled first responders are able to perform work for therapeutic purposes, work that involves simple tasks, or work that provides special accommodations and still receive PSOB benefits.

The bill would provide for retroactive disability benefits to public safety officers who responded to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, allowing those first responders who became permanently disabled as a result of their work at Ground Zero to re-apply for disability benefits under the bill's expanded disability definition.

The bill would address lengthy delays in processing benefit claims by permitting DOJ to use subpoena power to expedite claims, so that impacted officers and families aren't left waiting for their owed relief during the most difficult of times.

For cases pending longer than 365 days, the bill would index the award amount to the date of final determination, rather than the date of death or injury, so families aren't financially penalized for any delays.

The bill would extend benefits to certain public safety officers not currently covered, including Good Samaritan officers who act outside of their jurisdiction in an emergency situation, trainee officers, and fire-police who handle traffic and crime scene management.

And the bill would close a loophole in the Program where children born after the death or disability of a public safety officer are not able to receive education benefits, and mandate that DOJ provide back pay of educational benefits to children previously left out.

Finally, this bill also includes an extension of the Safeguarding America's First Responders Act concerning the provision of benefits for officers who contract COVID-19 in the line of duty.

I thank the Gentleman from New Jersey, Representative BILL PASCRELL, for his leadership of the House companion to this bill, and I urge all my colleagues to support this bill today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1511, the Protecting America's First Responders Act of 2021. This bill is about taking care of our Federal, State, and local public safety officers who are working on the front lines every day to protect us. Our Nation's law enforcement officers need our support now more than ever.

Over the past year, we have seen violent crime rise in nearly every major urban area. During this spike in violence, we have seen city councils defund their police departments, taking vital resources away from the brave men and women who protect us day in and day out. On top of that, our law enforcement officers are dealing with all of the complications of the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the Fraternal Order of Police, over 700 public safety officers have tragically lost their lives due to COVID-19. That number will inevitably continue to rise.

The Department of Justice's Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program provides assistance to officers and their families in the event that they lose their lives or are catastrophically injured in the line of duty. The PSOB Program reviews over a thousand claims submitted every year.

The program provides a one-time, lump-sum payment of \$370,000 for officers who lose their lives or are catastrophically injured in the line of duty. The payment amount is adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index. Each claimant's payment amount is determined by the date of the injury or death, but the claim may take years to adjudicate.

This bill corrects this inequity by requiring that payment amounts be determined by the date of adjudication for any claim that has been pending for over a year. This will help these law enforcement officers and their families account for increased cost of living and other expenses that are subject to inflation during these lengthy adjudication periods.

The PSOB Program also provides interim payments for death claims if the claimant is likely to receive an award under the program, but the interim payment amount has not increased since 1976. This bill will increase those interim payments for death claims from \$3,000 to \$6,000 and require annual adjustments based on the Consumer Price Index to ensure that Congress will not need to make further adjustments in the future.

The PSOB Program also provides educational benefits of \$1,200 a month to children of public safety officers who have been killed or disabled in the line of duty. Here, too, many of these claims for education benefits are not adjudicated in a timely fashion, and many children do not receive these benefits. This bill will provide backpay to the children of fallen and disabled public safety officers who qualify for benefits but failed to receive benefits due to a delay in processing these claims.

Finally, this bill will update the PSOB Program's definition of disability to ensure that law enforcement officers who are permanently unable to secure meaningful, gainful employment following a catastrophic injury in the line of duty remain eligible for benefits.

This is a critical and necessary piece of legislation, and I am proud to support a bill that takes care of the men and women of our law enforcement community.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to yield again to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. PASCRELL, who I have worked with, as have many others, as he has been on the front lines of helping first responders. He continues to do it, and I will continue to work with him.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

It is good to have something bipartisan on this floor, I will tell you that.

Mr. Speaker, during this devastating pandemic, our Nation's first responders

have stood heroically on the very front lines keeping communities across America safe. Our firefighters, police, and EMS go to work every day, and they risk their lives and the lives of their families.

In my own district, we lost Paterson police officer Frank Scorpo and Passaic firefighter Israel Tolentino to COVID. These men made the ultimate sacrifice for their communities.

My heart bleeds for all of our fallen first responders and their families. Last year was the deadliest ever for our Nation's public safety officers. COVID has made it clear as day that more must be done to support these heroes.

As long-time co-chair of the Law Enforcement Caucus and the Fire Services Caucus, I have been proud to lead efforts to pass the bipartisan Protecting America's First Responders Act with Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY.

I want to thank Senator GRASSLEY for working together to get this bill across the finish line. He has been a good partner to shepherd this through the other Chamber.

Currently, the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program only provides disability benefits to first responders who can never again perform any compensated work at all. This is so restrictive that officers practically need to be in a vegetative state to qualify.

Our bill will guarantee that first responders and their families get their owed benefits without delay or red tape.

Our legislation will expand the disability definition so permanently injured first responders can still receive benefits and perform work that is for therapeutic purposes, involves simple tasks, and provides special accommodations.

Our legislation also provides retroactive disability benefits to injured 9/11 first responders.

The bill extends these critical officer safety benefits to groups unfairly left out of the program. This includes trainees, fire police officers, and Good Samaritan first responders who protect the public while off duty.

Importantly, our bill extends the statutory presumption that guarantees the families of first responders fallen to COVID-19 receive full public safety officer benefits.

I was glad to work alongside Chairman NADLER to pass this presumption into law last year. I thank him for his efforts to bring the Protecting America's First Responders Act to the floor today. It is especially important because our bill provides an extension of this critical provision.

Finally, I want to recognize the fire and police organizations who support our bill. Thank you to the Fraternal Order of Police, the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, the National Association of Police Organizations, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and the National Volunteer Fire Council. I especially want to

recognize the International Association of Fire Fighters for their recent support.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD statements from each of these organizations.

STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT FOR PROTECTING AMERICA'S FIRST RESPONDERS ACT (S. 1511 / H.R. 2936)

Edward A. Kelly, General President of the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF): "On behalf of the 325,000 professional fire fighters and emergency medical personnel of the International Association of Fire Fighters, I respectfully request you vote in favor of S. 1511, the Protecting America's First Responders Act (PAFRA). This bipartisan legislation will help ensure the families of fire fighters and emergency medical personnel who are disabled or die in the line of duty receive the compensation and benefits they deserve.

The Public Safety Officer Benefit (PSOB) provides guaranteed death and disability benefits to emergency responders who die or are disabled in the line of duty. Unfortunately, current law places significant limits on program awards, leaving the families of deceased or injured public safety officers without deserved recompense. PAFRA corrects these oversights by ensuring disabled responders may qualify for necessary benefits, extending benefits to fire department cadets who are killed or injured in the course of their training, extending benefits to children of public safety officers who had not been born at the time of the officer's death or disability, and extending benefits for officers who die from COVID-19 for the duration of the public health emergency.

Fire fighters and emergency medical responders make significant sacrifices to serve their communities everyday, and should not need to worry about their families' financial security should they sustain lasting injuries or lose their life in the line of duty. PAFRA will help ensure responders' families are cared for in the face of catastrophe, and deserves your affirmative vote."

Ken Stuebing, Acting President and Chairman of the Board of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC): "I would like to thank Representative Pascrell for introducing the Protecting America's First Responders Act. This legislation would revise the Public Safety Officers' Benefits program to provide necessary assistance to more families of fallen public safety officers during their time of need. The IAFC looks forward to working with Congress to pass this important legislation."

Steven W. Hirsch, Chair of the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC): "PAFRA makes important improvements to the process by which public safety officers are able to access the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Disability Program. It also makes necessary changes to how PSOB claims are paid to the survivors of public safety officers who died of occupational illnesses related to work at Ground Zero after 9/11. Finally, I am very pleased that the PAFRA includes language clarifying that members of volunteer fire departments who perform scene security and traffic management duties at emergency scenes are public safety officers"

Patrick Yoes, National President of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP): "The PSOB program is currently burdened with unreasonable definitions of the terms 'catastrophic injury' and 'gainful work' that prevent officers who are disabled in the line of duty from receiving the benefits to which they are entitled. This legislation addresses this issue by making the PSOB standards more consistent with similar Federal benefit

for programs which will improve the ability of our injured and disabled officers to have their claims processed more fairly and more quickly"

Larry Cosme, National President of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA): "FLEOA fought for years to have the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) program created in order to support officers killed or injured in the line of duty. Congress meant for this important program to support officers and their families. Unfortunately far too many officers are unable to qualify for any type of disability benefit due to how the law was written, including heroic 9/11 responders who continue to face lingering health issues metastasizing years later after the attack. FLEOA appreciates the bipartisan and bicameral leadership of Representative Pascrell and Senator Grassley to ensure officers are able to access the PSOB program benefits they are entitled to and have earned, and look forward to working with their offices and other champions in Congress to advance this critical reform"

Bill Johnson, Executive Director of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO): "The goal of the Protecting America's First Responders Act is to help protect the ability of survivors, disabled officers and their families to get the death and disability benefits they so rightly deserve. This important legislation will ensure that officers who are disabled in the line of duty are not left behind by the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program and that all children of our fallen or disabled heroes are able to benefit from the Public Safety Officers' Education Assistance Program. NAPO supports the efforts of Representative Pascrell and Senator Grassley to ensure that America's public safety officers, who put their lives on the line every day in service to our nation, get the benefits promised to them, and we thank him for his leadership on this issue."

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, the past 18 months have been difficult for our communities, difficult for all Americans. It has been especially unbearable for our men and women in uniform.

These brave individuals have protected us at our lowest moment. The least we can do is protect the benefits they have earned and stand with them.

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ), who is a committed emergency medicine physician and chair of the Hispanic Caucus and co-chair of the bipartisan COVID-19 Task Force.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1511, the Protecting America's First Responders Act. This bill will go a long way in supporting the families of fallen officers and improving the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program.

Improving the PSOB program has been a longstanding priority of mine. In fact, today's legislation includes a provision from my bill, the Heroes Lesley Zerebny and Gil Vega First Responders Survivors Support Act, which fixes the benefit determination date so that families don't lose out on thousands of dollars because of bureaucratic delays.

In addition to passing today's legislation, we must also increase the PSOB

death and disability benefit to get our law enforcement families the benefits they have earned and deserve.

I look forward to working with Chairman NADLER to build on today's success and passing my bill, the First Responders Survivors Support Act, to raise the PSOB benefit this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the families of our Nation's law enforcement officers and vote "yes" on the Protecting America's First Responders Act.

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY), another committed advocate for first responders and who has continued his work on that issue.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Protecting America's First Responders Act. This is an important bill that includes a provision that I have worked on for the last three Congresses to extend the PSOB program to fire police officers.

A dozen States have officers designated by law as fire police, who provide critical support at the scenes of fires, explosions, and serious accidents. They secure the perimeter so that other first responders can do their work safely.

However, because there is no uniform national designation for fire police, the current PSOB program doesn't cover these officers, even if they are killed or seriously injured on the job, which sadly has occurred.

It is only right that they receive the same protection as other public safety officers. This bill eliminates this exclusion and ensures that fire police and their families get the same benefits others do who provide first responder work.

I want to acknowledge the Gales Ferry Fire Department and Ledyard, Connecticut, Fire Chief Anthony Saccone, who has tirelessly advocated for fire police over the last few years. Thanks to their advocacy and engagement and Mr. PASCRELL's great support, we will finally send this fix to the President's desk for signature.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the bill.

□ 1345

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers and am prepared to close.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time. You have seen the bipartisan and bicameral support of this legislation. I am grateful for that because I think this is an important statement in the midst of intense negotiations on Build Back Better and the INVEST Act, which will be an enormous gift to the American people, including our law enforcement, first responders, firefighters, and others. We now take a

moment to ensure that there are special benefits for public safety officers.

As I indicated, I had the privilege of being in New York at Ground Zero for the 20th commemoration and to hear stories of family members where the pain is still deeply embedded, to see babies that are relatives of the deceased that they never got a chance to see.

It was an honor to see the children of those who perished speak. They were just babies when their loved ones lost their lives in the line of duty in a brave manner.

The visual that I had in getting to that area during the recovery, still going on months later, hearing the whistle blow, seeing the gurneys come in carried by firefighters and others, the remains placed gently on that gurney makes this even more potent and powerful and important to be able to help.

In addition, there are two deputies who were wounded in the same tragic incident as the death of Deputy Atkins, and they, too, need comfort and support, and potential benefits that are necessary for their continued survival. I think this legislation impacts any number of men and women around this Nation.

Having participated with Local 341 President Marty Lancton just this past weekend at the Fire Memorial in Houston, Texas, to note those firefighters who passed in this last year—some suffering from COVID-19, others that we are remembering who died in fires and other tragic incidents—this emphasizes more and more the importance of this legislation.

The Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program is an important program to address the terrible circumstances in which officers give their lives or are disabled due to their actions in the line of duty. Now we work to improve and strengthen this program in the ways we have discussed today.

I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) and all of the co-sponsors. I was glad to also have the commitment of our House Judiciary Committee as well as the work of Senator GRASSLEY.

This is a bipartisan bill that was adopted by the Senate by unanimous consent, and therefore I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation so the President can sign it into law.

Mr. Speaker, the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program is an important program to address the terrible circumstances in which officers give their lives or are disabled due to their actions in the line of duty.

Now, we work to improve and strengthen this program in the ways we have discussed today.

This is bipartisan bill that was adopted by the Senate by unanimous consent.

I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting this legislation so that the President can sign it into law.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1511, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

CONFIDENTIALITY OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEER SUPPORT COUNSELING ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1502) to make Federal law enforcement officer peer support communications confidential, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 424, nays 3, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 337]

YEAS—424

Adams	Burgess	Davis, Danny K.	Garcia (CA)	Letlow	Roybal-Allard
Aderholt	Bustos	Dean	Garcia (IL)	Levin (CA)	Ruiz
Aguilar	Butterfield	DeFazio	Garcia (TX)	Levin (MI)	Ruppersberger
Allen	Calvert	DeGette	Gibbs	Lofgren	Rush
Allred	Cammack	DeLauro	Jimenez	Long	Rutherford
Amodei	Carbajal	DeBene	Gohmert	Loudermilk	Ryan
Armstrong	Cardenas	Delgado	Golden	Lowenthal	Salazar
Arrington	Carl	Demings	Gomez	Lucas	Sánchez
Auchincloss	Carson	DeSaulnier	Gonzales, Tony	Luetkemeyer	Sarbanes
Axne	Carter (GA)	DesJarlais	Gonzalez (OH)	Luria	Scalise
Babin	Carter (LA)	Deutsch	Gonzalez, Vicente	Lynch	Scanlon
Bacon	Carter (TX)	Diaz-Balart	Good (VA)	Mace	Schakowsky
Baird	Cartwright	Dingell	Gooden (TX)	Malinowski	Schiff
Balderson	Case	Doggett	Gosar	Malliotakis	Schneider
Banks	Casten	Donalds	Gottheimer	Maloney, Carolyn B.	Schrader
Barr	Castor (FL)	Doyle, Michael	Granger	Maloney, Sean	Schrier
Barragán	Castro (TX)	F.	Graves (LA)	Mann	Schweikert
Bass	Cawthorn	Duncan	Graves (MO)	Manning	Scott (VA)
Beatty	Chabot	Dunn	Green (TN)	Massie	Scott, Austin
Bentz	Cheney	Ellzey	Green, Al (TX)	Mast	Scott, David
Bera	Chu	Emmer	Greene (GA)	Matsui	Sessions
Bergman	Cicilline	Escobar	Griffith	McBath	Sewell
Beyer	Clark (MA)	Eshoo	Grijalva	McCarthy	Sherman
Bice (OK)	Clarke (NY)	Españillat	Grothman	McCaul	Sherrill
Biggs	Cleaver	Estes	Guest	McClain	Simpson
Bilirakis	Cline	Evans	Guthrie	McClintock	Sires
Bishop (GA)	Cloud	Fallon	Hagedorn	McCollum	Slotkin
Bishop (NC)	Clyburn	Feenstra	Harder (CA)	McEachin	Smith (MO)
Blumenauer	Clyde	Ferguson	Harris	McGovern	Smith (NE)
Blunt Rochester	Cohen	Fischbach	Harshbarger	McHenry	Smith (NJ)
Boebert	Cole	Fitzgerald	Hartzler	McKinley	Smith (WA)
Bonomici	Comer	Fitzpatrick	Hayes	McNerney	Smucker
Bost	Connolly	Fleischmann	Hern	Meeks	Soto
Bourdeaux	Cooper	Fletcher	Herrell	Meijer	Spanberger
Bowman	Correa	Fortenberry	Herrera Beutler	Meng	Spartz
Boyle, Brendan	Costa	Foster	Hice (GA)	Meuser	Speier
F.	Courtney	Fox	Higgins (LA)	Mfume	Stansbury
Brady	Craig	Frankel, Lois	Higgins (NY)	Miller (IL)	Stanton
Brooks	Crawford	Franklin, C.	Hill	Miller (WV)	Stauber
Brown	Crenshaw	Scott	Himes	Miller-Meeks	Steel
Brownley	Crist	Fulcher	Hinson	Moolenaar	Stefanik
Buchanan	Crow	Gaetz	Hollingsworth	Mooney	Steil
Buck	Cuellar	Gallagher	Horsford	Moore (AL)	Steube
Bucshon	Curtis	Gallego	Houlahan	Moore (UT)	Stevens
Budd	Davids (KS)	Garamendi	Hoyer	Moore (WI)	Stewart
Burchett	Davidson	Garbarino	Hudson	Morelle	Strickland
			Huffman	Moulton	Suozi
			Huizenga	Mrvan	Swalwell
			Issa	Mullin	Takano
			Jackson	Murphy (FL)	Taylor
			Jackson Lee	Murphy (NC)	Tenney
			Jacobs (CA)	Nadler	Thompson (CA)
			Jacobs (NY)	Napolitano	Thompson (MS)
			Jayapal	Neal	Thompson (PA)
			Jeffries	Neguse	Tiffany
			Johnson (GA)	Nehls	Timmons
			Johnson (LA)	Newhouse	Titus
			Johnson (OH)	Newman	Tonko
			Johnson (SD)	Norcross	Torres (CA)
			Johnson (TX)	Norman	Torres (NY)
			Jones	Nunes	Trahan
			Jordan	O'Halleran	Trone
			Joyce (OH)	Obenrolte	Turner
			Joyce (PA)	Omar	Underwood
			Kahele	Owens	Upton
			Kaptur	Palazzo	Valadao
			Katko	Pallone	Van Drew
			Keating	Palmer	Van Duyne
			Keller	Panetta	Vargas
			Kelly (IL)	Pappas	Veasey
			Kelly (MS)	Pascrell	Vela
			Kelly (PA)	Payne	Velázquez
			Khanna	Pence	Wagner
			Kildee	Perlmutter	Walberg
			Kilmer	Perry	Walorski
			Kim (CA)	Peters	Waltz
			Kim (NJ)	Pfuger	Wasserman
			Kind	Phillips	Schultz
			Kirkpatrick	Pingree	Waters
			Krishnamoorthi	Pocan	Watson Coleman
			Kuster	Porter	Weber (TX)
			Kustoff	Posey	Webster (FL)
			LaHood	Pressley	Welch
			LaMalfa	Price (NC)	Wenstrup
			Lamb	Quigley	Westerman
			Lamborn	Raskin	Wexton
			Langevin	Reed	Wild
			Larsen (WA)	Reschenthaler	Williams (GA)
			Larson (CT)	Rice (NY)	Williams (TX)
			Latta	Rice (SC)	Wilson (FL)
			LaTurner	Rodgers (WA)	Wilson (SC)
			Lawrence	Rogers (AL)	Wittman
			Lawson (FL)	Rogers (KY)	Womack
			Lee (CA)	Rose	Yarmuth
			Lee (NV)	Ross	Young
			Leger Fernandez	Rouzer	Zeldin
			Lesko	Roy	

NAYS—3

Bush Ocasio-Cortez Tlaib

NOT VOTING—4

Davis, Rodney Lieu
Kinzinger Rosendale

□ 1420

Mr. GIBBS changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE
RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Butterfield (Kildee)	Lawson (FL) (Soto)	Sires (Pallone) (Takano)
Cárdenas (Gomez)	Luetkemeyer (Long)	(Cicilline)
DeFazio (Brown)	Meng (Jeffries)	Thompson (PA) (Reschenthaler)
DeSaulnier (Beyer)	Payne (Pallone)	Trahan (Lynch)
Doggett (Raskin)	Porter (Wexton)	Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Evans (Mfume)	Rogers (KY)	Wilson (FL) (Hayes)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)	(Reschenthaler)	
	Rush (Underwood)	

PROTECTING AMERICA'S FIRST
RESPONDERS ACT OF 2021

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. STRICKLAND). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1511) to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 with respect to payments to certain public safety officers who have become permanently and totally disabled as a result of personal injuries sustained in the line of duty, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 420, nays 3, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 338]

YEAS—420

Adams	Blumenauer	Carter (LA)
Aderholt	Blunt Rochester	Carter (TX)
Aguilar	Boebert	Cartwright
Allen	Bonamici	Case
Allred	Bost	Casten
Amodei	Bourdeaux	Castor (FL)
Armstrong	Bowman	Castro (TX)
Arrington	Boyle, Brendan	Cawthorn
Auchincloss	F.	Chabot
Axne	Brooks	Cheney
Babin	Brown	Chu
Bacon	Brownley	Cicilline
Baird	Buchanan	Clark (MA)
Balderson	Buck	Clarke (NY)
Banks	Bucshon	Cleaver
Barr	Budd	Cline
Barragán	Burchett	Cloud
Bass	Burgess	Clyburn
Beatty	Bush	Clyde
Bentz	Bustos	Cohen
Bera	Butterfield	Cole
Bergman	Calvert	Comer
Beyer	Cammack	Connolly
Bice (OK)	Carbajal	Cooper
Biggs	Cárdenas	Correa
Bilirakis	Carl	Costa
Bishop (GA)	Carson	Courtney
Bishop (NC)	Carter (GA)	Craig

Crawford	Hoyer	Mullin
Crenshaw	Hudson	Murphy (FL)
Crist	Huffman	Murphy (NC)
Crow	Huizenga	Nadler
Cuellar	Issa	Napolitano
Curtis	Jackson	Neal
Davidson	Jackson Lee	Neguse
Davis, Danny K.	Jacobs (CA)	Nehls
Davis, Rodney	Jacobs (NY)	Newhouse
Dean	Jayapal	Newman
DeFazio	Jeffries	Norcross
DeGette	Johnson (GA)	Norman
DeLauro	Johnson (LA)	Nunes
DelBene	Johnson (OH)	O'Halleran
Delgado	Johnson (SD)	Obenrolte
Demings	Johnson (TX)	Ocasio-Cortez
DeSaulnier	Jones	Omar
DesJarlais	Jordan	Owens
Deutch	Joyce (OH)	Palazzo
Diaz-Balart	Joyce (PA)	Pallone
Dingell	Kahele	Palmer
Doggett	Kaptur	Panetta
Donalds	Katko	Pappas
Doyle, Michael	Keating	Pascrell
F.	Keller	Payne
Duncan	Kelly (IL)	Pence
Dunn	Kelly (MS)	Perlmutter
Ellzey	Kelly (PA)	Perry
Emmer	Khanna	Peters
Escobar	Kildee	Pfenger
Eshoo	Kilmer	Phillips
Españillat	Kim (CA)	Pingree
Estes	Kim (NJ)	Pocan
Evans	Kind	Porter
Fallon	Kirkpatrick	Posey
Feenstra	Krishnamoorthi	Pressley
Ferguson	Kuster	Price (NC)
Fischbach	Kustoff	Quigley
Fitzgerald	LaHood	Raskin
Fitzpatrick	LaMalfa	Reed
Fleischmann	Lamb	Reschenthaler
Fletcher	Lamborn	Rice (NY)
Fortenberry	Langevin	Rice (SC)
Foster	Larsen (WA)	Rodgers (WA)
Fox	Larson (CT)	Rogers (AL)
Frankel, Lois	Latta	Rogers (KY)
Franklin, C.	LaTurner	Rose
Scott	Lawrence	Ross
Fulcher	Lawson (FL)	Rouzer
Gaetz	Lee (CA)	Roybal-Allard
Gallagher	Lee (NV)	Ruiz
Gallego	Leger Fernandez	Ruppersberger
Garamendi	Letlow	Rush
Garbarino	Levin (CA)	Rutherford
Garcia (CA)	Levin (MI)	Ryan
Garcia (IL)	Lofgren	Salazar
Garcia (TX)	Long	Sánchez
Gibbs	Lowenthal	Sarbanes
Gimenez	Lucas	Scalise
Gohmert	Luetkemeyer	Scanlon
Golden	Luria	Schakowsky
Gomez	Lynch	Schiff
Gonzales, Tony	Mace	Schneider
Gonzalez (OH)	Malinowski	Schrader
Gonzalez,	Malliotakis	Schrier
Vicente	Maloney,	Schweikert
Good (VA)	Carolyn B.	Scott (VA)
Gooden (TX)	Maloney, Sean	Scott, Austin
Gosar	Mann	Scott, David
Gottheimer	Manning	Sewell
Granger	Mast	Sherman
Graves (LA)	Matsui	Sherrill
Graves (MO)	McBath	Simpson
Green (TN)	McCarthy	Sires
Green, Al (TX)	McCaul	Slotkin
Greene (GA)	McClain	Smith (MO)
Griffith	McClintock	Smith (NE)
Grijalva	McCollum	Smith (NJ)
Grothman	McEachin	Smith (WA)
Guthrie	McGovern	Smucker
Hagedorn	McHenry	Spanberger
Harder (CA)	McKinley	Spartz
Harris	McNerney	Speier
Harshbarger	Meeks	Stansbury
Hartzler	Meijer	Stanton
Hayes	Meng	Staubert
Hern	Meuser	Steel
Herrell	Mfume	Stefanik
Herrera Beutler	Miller (IL)	Steil
Hice (GA)	Miller (WV)	Steube
Higgins (LA)	Miller-Meeks	Stevens
Higgins (NY)	Moolenaar	Stewart
Hill	Mooney	Strickland
Himes	Moore (AL)	Suozi
Hinson	Moore (UT)	Swalwell
Hollingsworth	Moore (WI)	Takano
Horsford	Morelle	Taylor
Houlahan	Moulton	Tenney
	Mrvan	Thompson (CA)

Thompson (MS)	Van Drew	Webster (FL)
Thompson (PA)	Van Duyne	Welch
Tiffany	Vargas	Wenstrup
Timmons	Veasey	Westerman
Titus	Vela	Wexton
Tlaib	Velázquez	Wild
Tonko	Wagner	Williams (GA)
Torres (CA)	Walberg	Williams (TX)
Torres (NY)	Walorski	Wilson (FL)
Trahan	Waltz	Wilson (SC)
Trone	Wasserman	Wittman
Turner	Schultz	Womack
Underwood	Waters	Yarmuth
Upton	Watson Coleman	Young
Valadao	Weber (TX)	Zeldin

NAYS—3

Loudermilk Massie Roy

NOT VOTING—8

Brady	Lesko	Sessions
Guest	Lieu	Soto
Kinzinger	Rosendale	

□ 1437

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE
RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Butterfield (Kildee)	Lawson (FL) (Soto)	Sires (Pallone) (Takano)
Cárdenas (Gomez)	Luetkemeyer (Long)	(Cicilline)
DeFazio (Brown)	Meng (Jeffries)	Thompson (PA) (Reschenthaler)
DeSaulnier (Beyer)	Payne (Pallone)	Trahan (Lynch)
Doggett (Raskin)	Porter (Wexton)	Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Evans (Mfume)	Rogers (KY)	Wilson (FL) (Hayes)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)	(Reschenthaler)	
	Rush (Underwood)	

POLITICS IS THE ART OF THE
POSSIBLE

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, Otto von Bismarck, in the 1870s, I believe it was, said: “Politics is the art of the possible.” It is still true.

The Build Back Better bill will be the art of the possible. It will be good for America. It will create jobs. It will help the middle class deal with the burdens and blessings of children, childcare, child tax credits, and education.

It will be a very significant bill passed by this Congress to help the middle class and help those people who haven't been helped in the past, as the Trump tax cuts helped the wealthy.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to voting for it. I thank the people who are creating the art and making this possible. Politics is the art of the possible.

TAKE PRIDE IN OUR COUNTRY

(Mr. BURCHETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, the American taxpayers are expected to write the Democrats a blank check for this socialist scam. Democrats

want to squeeze as much money as possible from successful individuals and businesses.

Madam Speaker, this is completely wrong. We shouldn't be punishing success in America to finance this far-left political agenda. It is obvious why Joe Biden is pushing so hard for an aggressive expansion of government dependency programs and the dismantling of domestic energy production. He wants to virtue signal to his globalist pals during the United Nations climate summit this weekend in Scotland.

Democrats like Biden are embarrassed and ashamed of our country. He desperately wants acceptance from European countries to boost his progressive ego.

Why do we care what foreign elitists think of our country, Madam Speaker? Biden needs to prioritize American citizens instead of European politicians.

We do things differently than the rest of the world. I am proud of our national values. The leader of our government should take pride in the country he leads, too.

WORLD SERIES

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Yesterday, I said there was going to be breaking news, and there is breaking news. Does anyone know that the great Houston Astros are in the World Series, and that this Congressperson representing Minute Maid and the Houston Astros is saying they are in it to win it?

Madam Speaker, I am challenging my sister from Georgia (Ms. WILLIAMS), with Dusty Baker as a coach and stellar baseball people, for some catfish and barbecue that you have never eaten before, against those Atlanta Braves.

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Georgia.

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, in Atlanta we are known for making history and a little bit of good trouble.

As the home of Congressman John Lewis, the home of Hammerin' Hank Aaron, who was an Atlanta Brave, we are ready to make history once again and win this World Series, just like we won the first game last night—and we will be ready with a nice southern soul food dinner.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I love it. Catfish and barbecue, yes, Dusty Baker, and all of our ball hitters and Barbara Jordan. We are in it to win it. Go Astros.

□ 1445

HINDU HERITAGE MONTH

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize October 2021 as Hindu Heritage Month.

Hinduism is the third largest religion in the world. With 3 million devotees in the United States, Georgia's First Congressional District is home to many Hindu followers. The Hindu heritage, culture, and traditions serve as a source of inspiration for the individuals who look to the teachings of Hinduism for guidance.

The Hindu-American community has contributed tremendously to our community, enriching the lives of our citizens. As doctors, lawyers, artists, business leaders, and government officials, the Hindu community has contributed immensely to the State of Georgia and our great Nation. This month the Hindu community will celebrate their heritage by focusing on their culture and the traditions rooted in India.

Madam Speaker, I call upon my colleagues to join me in recognizing October as Hindu Heritage Month 2021.

To those celebrating, I wish all a joyous celebration of Hindu Heritage Month 2021.

LAS VEGAS IS COMING BACK

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, at the height of this pandemic, unemployment in my home district of Las Vegas was over 33 percent—a level not seen since the Great Depression. The fabulous Las Vegas Strip shut down, and the airport was empty.

Now, thanks to Democrats, we are coming back. Vaccination rates are up, unemployment rates are down, and travelers are returning. But it is not enough to restore the country to where we were when COVID hit. We need to build back better. This crisis has highlighted systemic inequalities that must be addressed.

The Build Back Better agenda offers us an opportunity to do just that by lifting working families, providing a pathway to citizenship, taking historic action on climate change, and making the wealthy contribute their fair share.

This is our moment, and we must seize it.

SOUNDING THE ALARM ON THE PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS

(Mr. KELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, with executive order after executive order, President Biden dismantled America's energy dominance. In the first days of his administration, President Biden killed the Keystone pipeline, paused new oil and gas production on U.S. lands, and destroyed thousands of good-paying jobs.

My Republican colleagues and I sounded the alarm knowing that this

type of short-sighted policy would have a devastating impact on our economy and national security. Now energy prices are rising with winter quickly approaching, and hidden deep in the Democrats' reconciliation plan is a tax on heating your home, Madam Speaker, that could leave Americans paying 50 percent more to keep warm this winter.

That is absurd. To make it worse, President Biden said he doesn't have a near-term answer for America's energy crisis. Well, we Republicans do. We have an answer. It starts with reversing Biden's harmful energy policies and investing in American energy.

RECOGNIZING MS. REASTHER EVERETT

(Ms. TLAIB asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Reasther Everett, a long-time resident of Westland in Michigan's 13th Congressional District, as we mourn her passing.

Ms. Everett was best known in the community for her volunteer work. As coordinator for the Wayne County Retired Senior Volunteer Program, she recruited, trained, and assigned volunteers. She also served as family service advocate for Wayne County Family Center facilitating and expediting adaptation to independent living arrangements for residents and aided with placement in healthcare services.

Ms. Everett spearheaded the "no family without Christmas program," collecting donations for the homeless during the winter holiday season. Throughout her work with the Southeast Westland Homeowners Association, Ms. Everett founded the SWHA Community Center where, for many years, she operated an after-school program for young people.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the many contributions of Ms. Reasther Everett to Westland, Wayne County, and Thirteenth District Strong, as we honor her memory.

AMERICAN CRISES

(Mr. GUEST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, under the failed leadership of Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS, our Nation faces challenges unlike any we have seen since the administration of former President Jimmy Carter.

Hardworking Americans are facing an inflation crisis that is driving up the price of almost everything we purchase. We are facing a supply chain crisis where people are unable to buy the goods and services they need to live productive lives.

We are facing a border crisis where our border agents are so overwhelmed

that we cannot account for the drugs being smuggled into our country or stop potential terrorists from entering our Nation. We are facing an energy crisis where the price of gas has reached a 7-year high and heating costs are projected to rise over 50 percent as winter nears.

Every one of these crises are the result of policies this administration and progressive Members of this Congress have pursued instead of working to help the American people get back on their feet.

It is time to reverse course, cut spending, promote good-paying jobs, and secure our border.

OUR CHILDREN ARE OUR MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE

(Mr. BOWMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, prior to coming to Congress, I worked in education for 20 years. I served as a public school elementary teacher, a high school counselor, and a middle school principal for 10½ years, and I can tell you without a doubt that the Build Back Better Act is going to be transformative for our democracy for generations to come.

The reasons are many, including climate change and investments in home care; however, our investments in our children, particularly in early childhood education, focusing on expanding the child tax credit, universal pre-K programs, and making sure we have almost universal childcare, will prepare our children—our babies—to enter kindergarten hitting the ground running.

As we know, when we invest in early childhood education, we have much better health, education, and economic outcomes with decreased costs in prison as well as healthcare.

So this is an exciting time, and I am blessed to be a part of this Congress during this time. I just want to celebrate the Build Back Better Act's investment in our youngest, most precious resource: our babies and our children.

HIGHLIGHTING THE LIFE AND WORK OF SENATOR K. MAURICE JOHANNESSEN

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, it is an honor today to highlight the work of Senator K. Maurice Johannessen in northern California who is still working hard at helping our veterans.

He was born in Norway many years ago, emigrated to the United States, and joined the Army in 1953 during the Korean war, serving our Nation for over 12 years. In 1960 Senator Johannessen moved to Redding, California, where he met his wife, Marianne, and raised a family.

After several years in local government, he was elected to the California State Senate where he remained for 9 years. In the State senate, he chaired the Senate Veterans Committee and authored over 47 veterans' bill and notably created the Northern California Veterans Cemetery in Igo, California, and five new veterans homes around the United States. Noticing his commitment to improving support for veterans, in 2002 Governor Grey Davis appointed him Secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs.

Upon retiring from the senate, Senator Johannessen didn't stop serving our region. He is still using his own resources and community support to get a veterans memorial chapel and a state-of-the-art veterans medical clinic in Shasta County.

On behalf of northern California, I appreciate Senator Johannessen's service, and I want to thank him for all his devotion to our region.

THE GREAT LAKES: THE INDUSTRIAL HEARTLAND OF AMERICA

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I thought I would like to place on the record this afternoon the fact that very important negotiations are going on on both sides of the Capitol relative to the infrastructure bill and the Build Back Better bill, and I just wanted to point out to all those who hear my voice that there is no one from the Great Lakes a party to those dialogues with a major position in either Chamber.

I think it is really important to sensitize those who are in the room that whatever they do, don't forget the industrial heartland of America.

Our fine leaders in both parties come from both coasts and they come from other regions of the country, but the industrial heartland is notable by its absence in those in the rooms who are doing the negotiation.

I know if we alert them to the fact that we exist and that we have huge needs ranging from rail freight to seaborne commerce to industrial revitalization—the list is very long—but I just wanted to point that fact out. I know if my voice is heard by the administration and by those in the respective committees they will respond accordingly.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to place these words on the record.

THE PRESIDENT'S WAR ON AMERICAN ENERGY

(Mr. MOORE of Alabama asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, President Biden's energy policies have triggered 7-year high gas prices that are hammering American families and small business owners.

Today gas prices are 50 percent higher than a year ago. In Montgomery, folks are paying \$3.09 a gallon, Enterprise \$3.21, and Eufaula and Troy \$3.29.

At these prices, the average Alabamian will pay about \$23 more each week on gasoline. That is more than \$100 a month and \$1,200 a year.

Gas prices impact small businesses, too. I am a small business owner, and countless small businesses like mine that are highly dependent on gas prices are being hammered right now by these high prices.

Almost all goods and services must be delivered via gas at some point. So it is basic economics. When the price of gas goes up, the price of everything goes up. That is on top of near-record inflation being driven by our out-of-control government spending. This insanity has to stop or the pain at the pump will continue.

Biden must end his war on American energy, and we must defeat his socialist tax-and-spend agenda.

PUBLICATION OF BUDGETARY MATERIAL

ADJUSTED AGGREGATE SPENDING LEVELS AND AGGREGATE REVENUE LEVELS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,
Washington, DC.

MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022 (S. Con. Res. 14) and the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, I hereby submit for printing in the Congressional Record: (Table 1) adjusted aggregate spending levels for fiscal year 2022 and aggregate revenue levels for fiscal year 2022 and for the period of fiscal years 2022 through 2031, (Table 2) allocations for fiscal year 2022 for the House Committee on Appropriations, (Table 3) committee allocations for fiscal year 2022 and for the period of fiscal years 2022 through 2031 for all committees other than the Committee on Appropriations, and (4) a list of discretionary accounts identified for advance appropriations in fiscal year 2022 appropriations bills. The authorizing committee allocation is divided into current law amounts and reauthorization. Reauthorization refers to amounts assumed in CBO's baseline for legislation that would extend current law provisions.

This filing is made for technical purposes as required by S. Con. Res 14, and the budgetary material published herein is for the purposes of enforcing titles III and IV of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and other budgetary enforcement provisions. If there are any questions, please contact Jennifer Wheelock or Kellie Larkin of the Budget Committee staff.

Sincerely,

JOHN YARMUTH,
Chairman.

TABLE 1—BUDGET AGGREGATE TOTALS (ON-BUDGET AMOUNTS IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS)

	2022	2022–2031
Appropriate level ¹		
Budget Authority ²	4,168,314	n.a.
Outlays ²	4,505,637	n.a.
Revenues	3,401,380	38,957,374

¹ Budgetary changes related to allowable adjustments for reconciliation legislation, including debt service, are held in reserve pursuant to section 3002 of S. Con. Res. 14.

² Not applicable because annual appropriations acts for fiscal years 2023 through 2031 will not be considered until future sessions of Congress.

TABLE 2—ALLOCATION OF SPENDING AUTHORITY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS (UNIFIED AMOUNTS IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS)

	2022
Discretionary Action: ¹	
BA	1,530,018
OT	1,685,953

TABLE 2—ALLOCATION OF SPENDING AUTHORITY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS (UNIFIED AMOUNTS IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS)—Continued

	2022
Current Law Mandatory:	
BA	1,356,059

TABLE 2—ALLOCATION OF SPENDING AUTHORITY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS (UNIFIED AMOUNTS IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS)—Continued

	2022
OT	1,355,730

¹ Allocation is consistent with allowable adjustments pursuant to Sec. 4005 of S. Con. Res. 14 and the latest stage of action by the House Appropriations Committee (i.e., reported or passed).

TABLE 3—ALLOCATIONS OF SPENDING AUTHORITY TO HOUSE COMMITTEES OTHER THAN APPROPRIATIONS ¹ (ON-BUDGET AMOUNTS IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS)

House committee	Current law		Reauthorization		Total	
	2022	2022–2031	2022	2022–2031	2022	2022–2031
Agriculture						
Budget Authority	13,054	56,288		709,596	13,054	765,884
Outlays	13,422	63,937	— 3	701,055	13,419	764,992
Armed Services						
Budget Authority	197,039	1,624,761			197,039	1,624,761
Outlays	201,963	1,623,088			201,963	1,623,088
Education and Labor						
Budget Authority	44,090	163,385	9,623	57,565	53,713	220,950
Outlays	110,095	319,631	6,809	53,946	116,904	373,577
Energy and Commerce						
Budget Authority	640,914	8,566,626		61,200	640,914	8,627,826
Outlays	663,681	8,618,502		48,616	663,681	8,667,118
Financial Services						
Budget Authority	11,180	140,301			11,180	140,301
Outlays	29,313	85,403	102	— 4,763	29,415	80,640
Foreign Affairs						
Budget Authority	46,449	438,663			46,449	438,663
Outlays	44,374	441,733			44,374	441,733
Homeland Security						
Budget Authority	1,920	27,339			1,920	27,339
Outlays	2,861	29,432			2,861	29,432
House Administration						
Budget Authority	15	123			15	123
Outlays	— 8	— 77			— 8	— 77
Judiciary						
Budget Authority	16,626	145,384			16,626	145,384
Outlays	15,627	146,339			15,627	146,339
Natural Resources						
Budget Authority	8,882	78,811		— 1	8,882	78,810
Outlays	12,204	88,591	— 38	— 419	12,166	88,172
Oversight and Reform						
Budget Authority	140,665	1,573,037			140,665	1,573,037
Outlays	139,103	1,588,125			139,103	1,588,125
Science, Space, and Technology						
Budget Authority	153	1,584			153	1,584
Outlays	400	2,158			400	2,158
Small Business						
Budget Authority						
Outlays	18,302	28,246			18,302	28,246
Transportation and Infrastructure						
Budget Authority	21,776	203,983	58,710	613,900	80,486	817,883
Outlays	28,929	218,662	185	6,156	29,114	224,818
Veterans' Affairs						
Budget Authority	407	1,688	3,819	195,827	4,226	197,515
Outlays	1,470	4,629	3,819	195,827	5,289	200,456
Ways and Means						
Budget Authority	1,229,192	15,608,593	20,223	207,901	1,249,415	15,816,494
Outlays	1,312,798	15,698,691	15,317	198,068	1,328,115	15,896,759

¹ Budgetary changes related to allowable adjustments for reconciliation legislation, including for debt service, are held in reserve pursuant to section 3002 of S. Con. Res. 14.

TABLE 4—ACCOUNTS IDENTIFIED FOR ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS

Accounts Identified for Advance Appropriations	
For Fiscal Year 2023	
Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education	
Employment and Training Administration	
Education for the Disadvantaged	
School Improvement Programs	
Career, Technical, and Adult Education	
Special Education	
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development	
Tenant-based Rental Assistance	
Project-based Rental Assistance	
For Fiscal Year 2024	
Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education	
Corporation for Public Broadcasting	
Veterans Accounts Identified for Advance Appropriations	
For Fiscal Year 2023	
Military Construction, Veterans Affairs	
Veterans Medical Services	
Veterans Medical Support and Compliance	
Veterans Medical Facilities	
Veterans Medical Community Care	

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 2 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, October 28, 2021, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-2533. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's notification of its 2021 compensation program adjustments, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1833b(a); Public Law 101-73, Sec. 1206(a); (103 Stat. 523); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-2534. A letter from the Acting Chairman, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting a letter notifying Congress of the completed investigations into leasing activities related to open-ended liabilities and overpayments to senior officials, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1351; Public Law 97-258; (96 Stat. 926); to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-2535. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1351; Public Law 97-258; (96 Stat. 926); to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-2536. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Stephen G. Fogarty, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106,

Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2537. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of General John M. Murray, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2538. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting a report on the Consumer Credit Card Market, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1616(d); Public Law 111-24, Sec. 502(d); (123 Stat. 1756); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-2539. A letter from the Chair, National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics, transmitting the 2021 Report to Congress on the Implementation of the Administrative Simplification Provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA), pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 242k(k)(7); Public Law 104-191, Sec. 263; (110 Stat. 2033); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2540. A letter from the Secretaries, Department of Agriculture and Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Report to Congress on the Notifications of Thefts, Losses, or Releases of Select

Agents and Toxins for CY 2020, pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 8401(k); Pub. L. 107-188, Sec. 212(k); (116 Stat. 656); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2541. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's report regarding the progress and goals with implementing the Strategic Plan under the Toxic Substances Control Act, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 2603(h)(2)(E); Public Law 94-469, Sec. 4 (as amended by Public Law 114-182, Sec. 4(9)); (130 Stat. 454); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2542. A letter from the Deputy Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Wireline Competition Bureau Announces Best Practices for Equipment Disposal and Revises FCC Form 5640 Certifications for the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program [WC Docket No.: 18-89] received October 20, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2543. A letter from the Senior Advisor, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting two (2) notifications of a nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-2544. A letter from the Executive Director, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting a report listing thirteen audit reports issued during fiscal year 2021 regarding the agency and the Thrift Savings Plan, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 8439 note; Public Law 111-31, Sec. 105(a); (123 Stat. 1855); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-2545. A letter from the Agency Representative, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's interim rule — 2021 Increase of the Annual Limit on Accepted Requests for Track One Prioritized Examination [Docket No.: PTO-P-2021-0038] (RIN: 0651-AD56) received September 30, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2546. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting a report titled, "The Department of Labor's 2020 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor", pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2464; Public Law 93-618, Sec. 504 (as amended by Public Law 99-514, Sec. 1887(a)(6)); (100 Stat. 2923); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. DUNN (for himself and Mr. JACKSON):

H.R. 5745. A bill to clarify Medicare coverage for COVID-19 testing and to provide support for cellular immune response research for COVID-19, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself, Mr. BABIN, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, and Mrs. KIM of California):

H.R. 5746. A bill to amend title 51, United States Code, to extend the authority of the National Aeronautics and Space Administra-

tion to enter into leases of non-excess property of the Administration; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. LAHOOD):

H.R. 5747. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include certain over-the-counter dietary supplement products as qualified medical expenses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CARBAJAL (for himself and Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas):

H.R. 5748. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to establish a program to carry out minor military construction projects to construct child development centers and to provide education and treatment services for infant and early childhood mental health, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself and Mr. DOGGETT):

H.R. 5749. A bill to impose natural gas trading limits during emergencies; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. CLEAVER (for himself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CORREA, Mr. CROW, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. ADAMS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Ms. BASS):

H.R. 5750. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize certain grants (for youth suicide early intervention and prevention strategies) to be used for school personnel in elementary and secondary schools and students in secondary schools to receive student suicide awareness and prevention training, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LAMB (for himself, Ms. STRICKLAND, and Mr. PAYNE):

H.R. 5751. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit Amtrak from including mandatory arbitration clauses in contracts of carriage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. LEVIN of California (for himself and Mr. GARCIA of California):

H.R. 5752. A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to authorize the termination of a telephone, multi-channel video programming, or internet access service contract by a servicemember who enters into such contract after receiving military orders for permanent change of station but then receives a stop movement order due to an emergency situation; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LUCAS:

H.R. 5753. A bill to assist in the transition of a certain hospital to a Medicare rural emergency hospital, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MCCLAIN (for herself, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. POSEY, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. MANN, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. VEASEY):

H.R. 5754. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the ability of vet-

erans to electronically submit complaints about the delivery of health care services by the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MOOLENAAR (for himself, Mrs. DINGELL, Mrs. MCCLAIN, and Ms. SLOTKIN):

H.R. 5755. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the assignment of patient advocates at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PERLMUTTER (for himself and Mr. KUSTOFF):

H.R. 5756. A bill to amend the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 to establish a Portal for Appraiser Credentialing and AMC Registration Information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. PINGREE (for herself, Mr. MCKINLEY, and Mr. HIGGINS of New York):

H.R. 5757. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the award of a military service medal to members of the Armed Forces who served honorably during the Cold War, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. SLOTKIN (for herself and Mr. WITTMAN):

H.R. 5758. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize non-medical counseling services, provided by certain mental health professionals, to military families; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. STEFANIK (for herself, Ms. SALAZAR, Mrs. HERRELL, Mrs. HINSON, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. GIBBS, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. BUDD, Mr. BOST, Mr. BABIN, Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Ms. LETLOW, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. OWENS, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. MAST, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. POSEY, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. GOHMERT, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. NORMAN, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. JACOBS of New York, Mr. KATKO, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, and Mr. PERRY):

H.R. 5759. A bill to include sexual assault and aggravated sexual violence in the definition of aggravated felonies under the Immigration and Nationality Act in order to expedite the removal of aliens convicted of such crimes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. TENNEY (for herself, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. SIRE, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. MELJER, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. MANN):

H.R. 5760. A bill to establish a program to monitor and combat the People's Republic of China's malign influence across military, economic, and political sectors in foreign countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas (for himself, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. BABIN, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. BACON, Mr. STAUBER, and Mr. VAN DREW):

H.R. 5761. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide increased locality pay rates to certain Bureau of Prisons employees whose duty stations are located in the pay locality designated as “Rest of U.S.”, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. WEXTON (for herself, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. MANNING, Ms. DEAN, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. ADAMS, and Mr. MFUME):

H.R. 5762. A bill to establish a National Domestic Violence Prevention Action Plan to expand, intensify, and coordinate domestic violence prevention efforts among Federal, State, local, and Tribal government agencies and with other relevant stakeholders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. DONALDS (for himself, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. OWENS, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. BACON, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. CHABOT, and Mrs. KIM of California):

H. Res. 748. A resolution honoring the life and the legacy of General Colin L. Powell; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. RASKIN (for himself, Ms. NOR- TON, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. WILD, Mr. TRONE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. LIEU):

H. Res. 749. A resolution recognizing the outstanding contributions of respiratory therapists to patient care during “National Respiratory Care Week”; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

Mr. DUNN:

H.R. 5515.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DUNN:

H.R. 5745.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 5746.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 5747.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution under the General Welfare Clause.

By Mr. CARBAJAL:

H.R. 5748.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 5749.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWER OF CONGRESS

CLAUSE 18

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 5750.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. LAMB:

H.R. 5751.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, U.S. Constitution

By Mr. LEVIN of California:

H.R. 5752.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. LUCAS:

H.R. 5753.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mrs. MCCLAIN:

H.R. 5754.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. MOOLENAAR:

H.R. 5755.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, Congress has the power to “provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States.”

By Mr. PERLMUTTER:

H.R. 5756.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. PINGREE:

H.R. 5757.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. SLOTKIN:

H.R. 5758.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 5759.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. TENNEY:

H.R. 5760.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. WEBER of Texas:

H.R. 5761.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. WEXTON:

H.R. 5762.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 19: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 202: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.

H.R. 432: Ms. BROWNLEY and Mr. GOLDEN.

H.R. 471: Mr. MCHENRY.

H.R. 554: Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 751: Mr. HAGEDORN and Mr. PENCE.

H.R. 851: Mr. MFUME and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 917: Mr. DEFAZIO.

H.R. 951: Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 1179: Mr. CRIST.

H.R. 1185: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 1208: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 1317: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 1439: Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 1745: Ms. FOXX and Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 1916: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio and Ms. MACE.

H.R. 1946: Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. UPTON, and Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 1990: Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 2041: Mrs. HINSON.

H.R. 2050: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.

H.R. 2067: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 2192: Ms. DEAN and Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 2227: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 2249: Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CUELLAR, and Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 2256: Ms. ADAMS, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 2350: Mr. BROWN.

H.R. 2454: Ms. WILD.

H.R. 2455: Mrs. LURIA, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, and Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 2558: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas and Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 2631: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 2724: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 2767: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 2900: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 2903: Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. AGUILAR, and Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 3114: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 3172: Mrs. CAMMACK.

H.R. 3259: Mr. COLE, Mr. LUCAS, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. KATKO, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 3294: Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio and Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 3451: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 3474: Mr. PAYNE and Ms. STEVENS.

H.R. 3522: Ms. SCANLON.

H.R. 3525: Mr. MFUME.

H.R. 3611: Mr. MFUME.

H.R. 3686: Ms. SCHRIER and Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 3730: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 3749: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 3867: Mr. MFUME.

H.R. 4017: Mr. MFUME.

H.R. 4066: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.

H.R. 4287: Mr. KUSTOFF and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.

H.R. 4295: Mr. PHILLIPS.

H.R. 4429: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 4516: Mrs. LESKO.

H.R. 4591: Mr. RYAN.

H.R. 4634: Mr. RYAN and Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 4777: Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 4785: Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio.

H.R. 4834: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.

H.R. 4845: Ms. HOULAHAN.

H.R. 4882: Ms. STEFANIK.

H.R. 4984: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.
H.R. 4996: Mr. MEIJER, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 5048: Mr. MFUME.
H.R. 5073: Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. ELLZEY, and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 5111: Ms. LEE of California, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CARSON, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. MFUME.
H.R. 5141: Mr. BACON, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. KUSTER, Miss RICE of New York, and Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 5221: Mr. MULLIN.
H.R. 5344: Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 5370: Mr. NADLER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. TORRES of New York.
H.R. 5389: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 5415: Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 5445: Mr. KELLER.
H.R. 5455: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 5543: Mr. HARDER of California and Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 5552: Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 5577: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mrs. TORRES of California, and Mr. TIMMONS.
H.R. 5581: Mr. MFUME.
H.R. 5585: Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 5608: Mr. CUELLAR and Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 5619: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.
H.R. 5639: Mr. STEUBE.
H.R. 5641: Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana.
H.R. 5648: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 5651: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 5653: Mr. CRIST and Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.
H.R. 5694: Mr. JACKSON.
H.R. 5710: Mr. NADLER, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 5722: Mr. MFUME.
H.R. 5740: Mr. MANN.
H.R. 5743: Mr. BABIN.
H. Con. Res. 19: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Ms. ESCOBAR.
H. Res. 268: Mr. FALLON.
H. Res. 415: Mr. KUSTOFF and Mr. LAMBORN.
H. Res. 559: Mr. KAHELE.
H. Res. 565: Ms. BASS, Ms. TITUS, and Ms. SHERRILL.
H. Res. 710: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H. Res. 712: Mr. CASE.
H. Res. 731: Mrs. MCCLAIN.